

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the
proposal to suspend the
Saipan Zoning Law?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of August 7, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnniphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Tita Cory

Filipinos fondly referred to her as their Tita Cory, catapulted to the highest post of the land despite being a "plain housewife."

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



Stage Tumble

Aerosmith's Steven Tyler was hurt in a tumble from the stage.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

4th Medical Battalion arrives for training, free clinics. **PAGE 3**
Red flag up at 21 Saipan beach sites. **PAGE 5**

Alien workers' plea: Help us!

Leniency for documented, long-term foreign workers pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Second part of a series

Milagros Cruz, 51, who has been on Saipan for 21 years, may lose her job when her annual contract as a house worker is not renewed by Oct. 1 because of hardship being faced by her employer. If forced to leave the CNMI right away, she would be separated from her two minor U.S. citizen children.

SPECIAL REPORT

Like thousands of other documented guest workers who have helped build the CNMI and raised their families here, Cruz's status is now in limbo. In a U.S. commonwealth where almost all professionals

See ALIEN on Page 4

A long-term guest worker waits for the arrival of visiting federal officials in Garapan to seek help for improved immigration status in this file photo. As key U.S. lawmakers arrive on Saipan today, thousands of guest workers and community members are hopeful that this time around, their messages will be heard more clearly ahead of the Nov. 28 federalization.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Fitial's Cabinet member Gonzalo Santos dies at 68

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER



One of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's allies and his designated special adviser for indigenous affairs, Gonzalo Q. Santos, passed away Tuesday morning from lung cancer. He was turning 69 next week.

See FITIAL on Page 4

THE GRADUATES

Thirteen nursing graduates at Emmanuel College hold lit candles as part of the school's second commencement exercises held yesterday at Saipan World Resort. Last year, the vocational nursing school graduated 20 students.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Ferry capsizes in Tonga; 2 dead, 64 missing

By RAY LILLEY and PESI FONUA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Hopes faded Friday of finding any more of the dozens

Concerned citizens gather on the dock as survivors arrive in Pangai on Tonga's Lifuka Island, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, after a ferry carrying 117 passengers and crew sank around midnight Wednesday, northeast of the Tongan capital, Nuku'alofa.

missing for almost two days after a busy ferry flipped and sank off Tonga.

Maritime rescue officials said after nightfall Friday they were considering calling off the search for survivors, as navy divers flew from Australia and New Zealand to comb the wreck for bodies.

Only two deaths have been confirmed, and the 64 missing are presumed dead.

That figure kept rising Friday as investigators learned more about how many people

See FERRY on Page 4

Local

Motion filed for continued release of Villagomez

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan filed yesterday a new motion to allow the continued release of former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, pending his appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Lujan said that Villagomez is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

Lujan also pointed out the "apparent existence" of appellate issues that, according to him, should be deemed "fairly debatable."

"The question then is not whether this court at this stage believes Mr. Villagomez will prevail on appeal, but rather whether the issues that he rais-

es are of the type which make 'fairly debatable' the validity of the judgment," the lawyer said.

On Wednesday, the U.S. District Court for the NMI sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Villagomez's sister, Joaquina V. Santos, and her husband, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, were sentenced to six years and six months in prison each for their involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

The court allowed the continued release of the defendants pending the designation of a federal prison facility where they will serve their sentences.



Villagomez

said the issue now before the federal court is not whether Villagomez will prevail on appeal, but whether the claims are "substantial" or "fairly debatable."

He said while the defense motion contained multiple allegations of blood relationships between jurors and government witnesses, he needs to prevail on only one claim to prevail on appeal because, as the court noted in its previous order, "the bias or prejudice of even a single juror would violate [the defendant's] right to a fair trial."

"Thus, if the defendant has raised a 'fairly debatable' claim of bias on the part of a single juror, he has met the third prong of the statutory test for entitlement to release pending appeal," Lujan added.

Rain showers seen to start letting up

Scattered showers were expected to diminish in the CNMI beginning yesterday, as the monsoon trough weakens and drifts north away from the Marianas. The high surf advisory remains in effect, however, until 6am Monday. The small craft advisory for hazardous seas remains in effect until early this morning.

Based on information from the National Weather Service in Guam, combined seas are expected to fall to 8 to 10 feet today, Saturday. High surf and dangerous rip currents will affect exposed reefs and beaches. Expect hazardous seas through early Monday morning.

Those operating smaller ves-

sels should avoid boating in these conditions. If sailing is necessary, exercise caution and be sure to wear flotation gear.

Today, southwest winds will be 5 to 10 knots, with wind waves of 2 to 3 feet and a west swell of 8 feet and east 3 feet. Tonight and Sunday, south winds will be 5 to 10 knots, with wind waves of 2 feet or less and west swells of 7 to 8 feet.

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along west facing reefs as rip currents will be life threatening. (EMO)

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4th Medical Battalion arrives for training, free clinics

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The crew of the 4th Medical Battalion, composed of 37 U.S. Marines and Navy personnel, arrived yesterday for the Innovative Readiness Training and free clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center starting Monday.

IRT officer-in-charge Capt. Anita M. Kobuszewski said they are excited to be here and serve the community.

The readiness training will be held at two venues: the Kagman High School cafeteria and the American Memorial Park. The free medical and dental clinics will be held at the Commonwealth Health Center from Aug. 10 to 14 and from Aug. 17 to 21.

Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom said, however, that the free dental clinic is already fully booked, as this is primarily for children with special needs.

The free medical clinic,

however, is open to the general public.

Kobuszewski explained that Dr. Brostrom had earlier asked for the IRT through the CNMI Secretary of Health and the Office of the CNMI Governor.

She said the U.S. Defense Secretary immediately ap-

proved the request last year and assigned the 4th Medical Battalion to conduct the mission.

"This is a benchmark program," Kobuszewski said during a press briefing at the Department of Public Health yesterday noon.

In a way, she said, they are also



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

U.S. Navy Capt. Anita M. Kobuszewski explains her crew's mission for the Innovative Readiness Training and free dental and medical clinics on Saipan starting on Monday.

Fund's investment consultant moves for changes in its fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Merrill Lynch, the investment consultant of the NMI Retirement Fund, wants a 10-basis point increase in its fee as a result of the changes at its main office in the United States.

Saipan Tribune learned this during Thursday's discussion between the board of trustees and the company's first vice president Kenan J. Knieriem.

It was disclosed that the proposed contract revision for fee increases was originally set at 10 basis points, as proposed by the Merrill Lynch national office.

However, its field office in Hawaii has approved the Fund's request for only 5-basis point increase in consulting fees.

Juan T. Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* during Thursday's meeting that the Fund will change its system of paying Merrill Lynch from the "soft dollar" method to "hard dollars."

"From the hard-dollar contract, there will be substantial savings realized by the Fund. Also, the new contract is below \$290,000 [per year]," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since the company was hired, it has been deducting its commission upfront, which is classified as a "soft-dollar contract."

Once the new contract is executed, the Fund will start issuing checks for the payment of its services—the "hard dollar" method.

Knieriem said the new system will benefit the Fund because the money managers will have more options.

The issue of revising Merrill Lynch's contract was on the board's table since last year.

Guerrero, who resigned from

the board Thursday to run for governor in the November elections, said he's hopeful the new chairman, along with the trustees, will continue with the Fund's proposed direction.

"This is the first time in the Fund's history that we will use the hard-dollar contract [to] pay the consultants and managers rather than them automatically taking out the commission before they issue or report to us the total earnings," Guerrero explained.

He cited the \$231 million employer's contribution to be collected from the central government, which would boost the investment to \$600 million level if collected.

He disclosed that the Fund has been paying Merrill Lynch under the soft-dollar arrangement for over a decade now.

"The methodology of making

the payments is evolving within the financial markets. So these changes are new and part of the process, so everyone is comfortable and it is designed for transparency," he said.

Guerrero lauded Merrill Lynch's services to the Fund, which stabilized investments at \$318 million as of July 31.

Though a decline was noted in the investment amount, Guerrero said this cannot be considered as all losses.

He cited the \$231 million employer's contribution to be collected from the central government, which would boost the investment to \$600 million level if collected.

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here for a site survey because they intend to come back next year and extend the IRT training and medical/dental clinics to the islands of Rota and Tinian.

"We're hoping to set a standard and we're happy to be here. We're excited," she said.

The Department of Public Safety will provide security and crowd control during these activities.

The scope of care provided will include both medical and dental services. The medical focus will include some specialist care including neurology. The general medicine focus will be on diabetes mellitus and hyper-

tension disease; optometry services may also be provided.

The dental component will include specialty dental care, with an emphasis on pediatric dentistry services. It will specifically target children with special needs."

Brostrom said that priority patients are those who do not have medical insurance.

CHC will conduct the usual screening process.

"Appointment should be made for the regular health screening process at the hospital," Kobuszewski said.

The 37 crewmembers consist of physicians, pharma-

cists, biomedical doctors and technicians, dentists, physical therapists, and nurses.

A wellness day with a prevention focus is in the planning phase and may be offered in the community midway through the IRT exercise. Highlights of the wellness day would include healthy weight, nutrition, exercise/fitness, sports injury prevention, tobacco cessation, suicide prevention, oral health, diabetes mellitus and hypertension prevention.

Continuing education opportunities will be made available to local Saipan medical and dental providers, taught by 4th Medical Battalion and 4th Dental Battalion providers.

"We are both honored and excited to provide valuable training for our sailors and Marines and at the same time work alongside the medical and dental staff of the CHC to provide medical and dental care to the residents of Saipan," Kobuszewski.

"This evolution provides both the 4th Medical Battalion and the 4th Dental Battalion personnel valuable training in an expeditionary environment and on rapidly deploying to a location, developing advanced medical, dental and logistics training. Further, we will prepare the way ahead for follow-on IRT and Civil Assistance Program operations in the CNMI," said Kobuszewski.

Navy Region Marianas officially renamed Joint Region Marianas

SANTA RITA, GUAM—Commander, Navy Region Marianas is now officially renamed Commander, Joint Region Marianas. A recently issued Navy notice took effect Aug. 5 establishing the new title.

With the change in name, also comes a modified mission statement. Commander, Joint Region Marianas' mission is to provide executive level installation management support to all Department of Defense components and tenants through assigned regional installations on Guam

and the Northern Mariana Islands in support of training in the Marianas; to act as the interface between the Navy and the civilian community; to ensure compliance with all environmental laws and regulations, safety procedures, and equal opportunity policy; and perform other functions and tasks as may be assigned.

The name change was a result of Base Realignment and Closure Act direction to consolidate military installation management functions on island and establish joint bases. (PR)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT/ NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KALABERA CAVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MARPI, SAIPAN

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Public Works in conjunction with CRM, DPL, DEQ, HPO and FWL are making available for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Assessment Report (DEAR) prepared for the proposed Kalabera Cave Development Project proposed by the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Marianas Visitors Authority is the project sponsor. The project is federally funded by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs for Capital Improvement Projects under Section 118 of Public Law 104-134, and is pursuant to Article XIV Section 3 of the NMI Constitution including the NMI Historic Preservation Act of 1982, Public Law 3-39.

The project is designed to meet or exceed the requirements of local and federal laws, and construction includes car and bus parking, pathway, resting house, house of prayer, pictograph Interpretive house, and cave interior lighting.

An Environmental Assessment Report (EAR), which is a written document that discusses the potential environmental effects of the project and feasible mitigation measures to reduce those effects to less-than-significant levels, is proposed for certification by the Commonwealth pursuant to the NEPA and NHPA Guidelines. Possible environmental impacts of this project include impacts upon or related to aesthetics, transportation, air quality, noise, cultural and historical resources, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, hazardous materials, and public utilities and service systems. Responsible and trustee agencies and those who have already expressed an interest in this matter will automatically receive a copy of the Draft EAR; for other interested persons, copies of the Draft EAR may be requested from the Department of Public Works at the address and telephone number given below or from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the address and telephone number given below. The 30-day review period for the Draft EAR is from August 7th - September 8th, 2009. During this period, comments may be submitted to the Department of Public Works at the address given below, in either writing or by e-mail, or comments may be made during the public hearing, the date and location of which is described below.

Said public hearing where all interested members of the public may attend and be heard will be held on Friday, the 28th day of August 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Gregorio Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria in San Roque, Saipan. This hearing will be for acceptance of public comments on the Draft EAR by DPW staff or staff from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates. No decision regarding the project or certification of the EAR will be made at this meeting. A final decision on this project will be made at a future date at a meeting of the Department of Public Works, who would also consider certification of the EAR at that time. All persons interested in the matter may appear and be heard at this meeting.

Copies of the Draft EAR in spiral bound form may be obtained in person from:
Department of Public Works
Technical Service Division,
Joeten Building, 2nd Floor,
San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-234-9828/38

and

Herman B. Cabrera & Associates
P.O. Box 501421
Garapan Village
Saipan, MP 96950
Attn: Herman B. Cabrera, AIA President
E-Mail: hbcabrera@gmail.com
Tel: 670-234-1778

A copy will be charged at the nominal rate of \$0.20 per sheet.

A copy of the document may also be viewed at:
Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

Comments on the Draft EAR should be submitted to the Department of Public Works or to Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the e-mail address or his address above. Comments on the Draft EAR must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2009.

Senate confirms longest serving CEC member, others

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

On an 8-0 vote, the Senate yesterday confirmed the re-appointment of Frances M. Sablan to the Commonwealth Election Commission where she has served for 13 years under four different governors.

"Thank you for allowing me to serve for more than 12 years under four different governors and under whomever voters choose this coming election," Sablan told the eight senators present in yesterday's session on Capitol Hill.

Sen. Maria "Frica" T. Pangelinan (D-Saipan) was on leave.

FERRY

From Page 1

were aboard when the *Princess Ashika* went down around midnight Wednesday while carrying passengers and cargo from the capital, Nuku'alofa, to outlying northern islands.

Police Chief Inspector Sokopeti To'ia told The Associated Press late Friday the latest count of those aboard the ferry was 120. Of those, 54 have been rescued—one more than previously counted—and two bodies have been recovered, leaving 64 missing. The

Sablan is the longest serving member of the election board. She is now the chair of the commission.

Under her term, the Election Commission has started using automated ballot counting system, which former commission executive director and now Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan also pushed for.

The commission has also been able to ensure smooth and peaceful elections.

Sablan's husband for 32 years, Commonwealth Development Authority board member Ed Sablan, said yesterday her wife has always loved volunteer work. "She loves community service," said the husband, who was at the

dead were a British man living in New Zealand and a Polynesian woman.

"I really can't say this is a final tally as police continue to get the names of people seen boarding the vessel that weren't on the manifest," To'ia said.

Five foreigners were among the missing, four were French and German—the breakdown was not exactly known—and one Japanese, To'ia said. Seven children were unaccounted for.

The identities of the foreigners was yet to be confirmed, she said.

Tongan Police Commander Chris Kelly said Friday that 15 of those rescued "were not on the manifest and this

Senate confirmation hearing to show his support.

The senators also confirmed on an 8-0 vote the re-appointment to the Election Commission of Elizabeth DLG. Aldan.

Two other new appointments to the Election Commission also received the Senate nod—that of Leilani I. Manglona and Antonio R. Agulto.

The senators also confirmed on an 8-0 vote the appointment of Paz Younis to serve on the Northern Marianas College board of regents.

Of all the nominees confirmed by the Senate yesterday, only Frances M. Sablan was present.

just illustrates the difficulty ... of identifying who was and was not on the boat," Kelly said.

"No women or children made it," passenger Siaosi Lavaka was quoted as saying by the Matangi Tonga Web site after he was brought ashore with the other male survivors who managed to cram aboard the ferry's seven or eight lifeboats.

Lavaka, whose mother was among the missing, said he woke to find the ferry rocking violently and waves breaking over the ferry's lower decks.

The rocking apparently shifted cargo to one side of the vessel, unbalancing it and turning it over, he said.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth Election Commission chair Frances M. Sablan, left, is all smiles as she is congratulated by Senate legal counsel Tony Cabrera after her re-appointment to the commission was confirmed by all senators present at yesterday's session. Also in photo are Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), second from right, and Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero, right.

FITIAL

From Page 1

His daughter Rebecca confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that her father died at 7:42am at the Guam Memorial Hospital where he has been confined since July 17.

Santos was the governor's special adviser for indigenous affairs since the Fitial administration assumed office in 2006.

Rebecca Santos described her father as a "supportive" and "very caring" individual.

The family disclosed that Santos was diagnosed with lung cancer early this year during a check-up at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Since being taken to the Guam hospital, Rebecca said his father's condition worsened.

Santos is survived by four children and his wife, Olympia Santos.

The remains of the former official will be flown to Saipan on Monday. A Mass will be celebrated at 6am at the Kristo Rai Church.

On Wednesday, viewing and last respects will begin at 7am at the Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel, fol-

lowed by the burial at the Mount Carmel Cemetery at 10am.

Prior to his appointment with the Fitial administration, Santos served the Public School System for over 30 years as a teacher and principal.

He was the former director of Labor during the administration of governor Froilan Tenorio.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. confirmed that they immediately received the news of Santos' passing.

"Our Cabinet was informed of the passing of Mr. Santos, a member of our administration. I gather funeral arrangements are being made for next

week," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said Fitial was aware of Santos' illness and the former official had been away from work for a number of weeks prior to his passing.

Reyes added that the governor was in contact with the family just before Santos passed away and the governor extended his condolences to them.

"Members of our Cabinet join the governor in praying for our late Cabinet member," he said.

The press secretary disclosed that Santos had a sincere concern for the indigenous culture and traditions and had been working on projects such

as the Chamorro language dictionary and the exploration and documentation of traditional Chamorro herbs and medicine and wanted to create more awareness about Chamorro cultural practices.

Reyes narrated that a few weeks before his death, Santos responded to his e-mails to all Cabinet members and apologized for not being able to attend due to illness.

He said the official wanted to get back to work.

As of yesterday, Fitial has yet to name a new special adviser for indigenous affairs.

ALIEN

From Page 1

al and blue-collar jobs are filled by mostly educated Asian workers—from engineers to nurses, architects, accountants, teachers, restaurant servers, hotel staffers, carpenters to house helpers—even employers worry about losing their most valuable workers, given the lack of qualified local workers to fill up these positions.

As chairman of the influential House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Nick J. Rahall II (D-WV), and five other members of the panel arrive today, long-term documented workers like Cruz are asking them for help.

The workers and other members of the community are seeking support for an improved immigration status, a grant of U.S. permanent residency and a pathway to citizenship.

"In the U.S. mainland, they give permanent residency to those who entered the country illegally. Here, we have thousands of workers who entered legally, are working legally and have been contributing much to the economy, but still we worry every year whether our contracts will be renewed, whether we will be separated from our kids, whether we will be asked to leave," said Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI.

Tomorrow, thousands of nonresident workers, their families, supporters and other members of the community will hold a peaceful assembly at the Garapan Fishing Base at 3pm and meet with Rahall.

Arriving with Rahall today are Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP); Rep. Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS), chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment; Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife; Rep. Henry Brown (R-SC), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife; and Rep. Donna M. Christensen (D-USVI), member of the Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources committees and second vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Adding to uncertainties

The Nov. 28 start of transition to federal immigration is adding to Cruz's uncertainties.

Even if her contract is renewed for another year or finds another job, she worries that when the federal government takes over local immigration and her employer couldn't afford to apply for a costly H-visa for her, she would still be sent home.

Her eldest son, now in the U.S. Air Force, will be turning 21 in February 2010, only a few months short to be

able to petition her as an immediate relative so she could remain in the CNMI, in case she loses her job right away.

Cruz said she would find a job more suited for her accounting degree rather than continue working as a house helper if given the chance, and most importantly, so she could take care of her two other minor children who have never known any other place.

She asks herself, "Would the CNMI or the U.S. government grant me an immigration status to allow me to remain on the islands at least until my eldest son in the military is able to petition me to become an immediate relative? Will I be deported right away when my contract expires? What would happen to my children? Would lives be better for my children and me under federal immigration here?"

Cruz also remembers how, for almost two years, she, her husband and their then three little children lived in a house without power and water because her husband's employer at the time not only abandoned his employees but also failed to pay them their wages and therefore her family had to prioritize food over utilities.

"That was tough mostly for my children. I tried thrice to bring them to my own country, the Philippines, and raise them there but their teachers in school and others we know said my U.S. citizen children are academic achievers and have

never known any place other than Saipan where they're born. We stayed here, we worked harder, we persevered," Cruz said in her native language.

'Help my parents, help us become better US citizens'

Fourteen-year-old Rita Lorraine Doca knows how hard it would become for her and her five minor siblings when their parents are forced to depart the CNMI upon losing their immigration status when their work permits expire.

"We need our parents to be here, to guide us, to mold us become better U.S. citizens," Doca, the second eldest among the six children, said in an interview.

Her siblings are aged 17, 10, 9, 6 and 3.

Her father, Ronnie Doca, has been working in the CNMI since 1989.

"My dad has been doing a lot of community services and I asked him, why does he do it? He said it's his way of giving back to the community," said the 14-year-old, adding that her dad has contributed a lot to the CNMI, along with other foreign workers who also have U.S. citizen children.

'This could be our last chance'
Ronnie Doca, board chairman of the United Workers Movement-NMI and president of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association, encouraged non-resident workers, their families and all

other community members yesterday to attend Sunday's peaceful assembly to meet with Rahall and the rest of the visiting congressional delegation.

"This could be our last chance to be heard. The regulations that will affect our lives, that will determine whether we would still be united with our families, have yet to be finalized. This could be our last chance for our hopes to be heard. We ask for an improved immigration status. I hope Congressman Rahall will hear us," Doca said.

Rahall's committee has oversight on insular possessions of the U.S., including the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The Committee on Outreach and Public Information, which consists of representatives of guest worker groups in the CNMI, has been formed to organize the assembly.

"We are still united. We will always be united," said Rene Reyes, chairman of the ad-hoc committee.

Rahall's visit comes at a critical time, with only a few months before the Nov. 28 start of the CNMI's transition to federal immigration system.

But the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has yet to issue federalization regulations on the CNMI-only transitional foreign workers program and foreign investors.

To be continued.

9 Shanghai media outlets to visit Northern Marianas

In a bid to fill charter flights from Shanghai, Marianas Visitors Authority is preparing to welcome representatives of nine media outlets arriving in Saipan today, Aug. 8, for a familiarization tour of this tropical destination.

The media will spend their

first day and night in Tinian, highlighting the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and the natural and historic sites of the island. On Saipan, the FAM group will take a tour of the island most popular visitor sites, plus a jungle tour, a sunset cruise, and a submarine tour

in the lagoon. They will also spend a morning enjoying water sports at the award winning island of Managaha, a short ferry ride from Saipan.

"The message these media expect to share is that Saipan and Tinian have many attractions framed in a setting of natural

beauty, and it is safe to travel to our islands," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio. "The amount of media coverage expected in Shanghai is substantial, and we hope to see a positive effect in terms of visitor arrivals on inbound charter flights."

One media outlet included in the FAM tour is Shanghai

TV Station, the first TV channel in Shanghai. The channel has a viewership of over 100-million persons, and 30 seconds of coverage on the channel has an estimated value of \$2,000. Also expected to provide over \$56,000US in additional exposure are website integrated CCTV channel U.CCTV.

com, Sina.com, video sharing website Youku.com, travel guidebook *Gootrip Magazine*, magazine *Elite Traveler*, newspaper journal *The Labor Daily*, *Metro DM*, and flight magazine *The Moment*.

The FAM tour is also being facilitated by Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Holiday. (MVA)

Red flag up at 21 Saipan beach sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 21 sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Paupau Beach, Palms Resort (former Nikko Hotel), San Roque School, Aqua Resort Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Am. Memorial Park, Smiling Cove Marina, Fiesta Resort Drainage (also known as the Dai Ichi Drainage), Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach Drainage, Chalan Laulau Beach, San Jose Beach, Chalan Piao Beach, Hopwood School Beach, San Antonio Beach, PIC Beach, and San Antonio Lift Station on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of the fecal indicator bacteria enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beach-closeweeklyresults.htm>.

The agency welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (PR-DEQ)

Saipan Mayor's Office sued for alleged debt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A video production company has sued the Saipan Mayor's Office for allegedly failing to pay the full amount for video coverage services during the 2008 Liberation Festivity.

Digital Motion Video Production sued the Saipan Mayor's Office for breach of contract for allegedly defaulting on the balance owed, amounting to \$4,300.

Digital Motion, through counsel S. Joshua Berger, asked

the Superior Court to order the Saipan Mayor's Office to pay \$4,300 in damages, attorney's fees, and pre-judgment interest at 9 percent per annum.

Berger stated in the complaint that, on April 21, 2008, the Saipan Mayor's Office entered into a contract with Digital Motion for video coverage services in the amount of \$9,000.

Berger said the \$9,000 covered services for 30 days and included cameramen, camera equipment, linemen, and other related requirements.

The lawyer said the Mayor's

Office paid just \$4,700, so it is presently in default to Digital Motion in the amount of \$4,300.

According to documents filed by the plaintiff in court, the video coverage services were from June 6, 2008, to July 6, 2008.

Among the services rendered were two video big screens for the benefit of viewers away from the stage.

Manny Tenorio, chairman of the 2008 Liberation Festivity and Digital Motion production manager Edwin Sta. Theresa signed the agreement for the services.

NMC INFO SESSION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas College academic counselor Lulu Wang, second from right, assists potential NMC students at the recent NMC information session. Wang served as a Mandarin-Chinese translator at the event, answering questions about the college and helping in the admission process. Other staff from counseling, financial aid, admissions, and other NMC offices were also available to help participants during the all-day information session learn about NMC's programs, the admission process, and answer questions about financial aid.

Continental begins nonstop flights to Nadi, Fiji

TOKYO—Continental Airlines announced yesterday its new service from its Guam hub and Honolulu to Nadi, Fiji beginning Dec. 18, 2009. The flights will also offer convenient connections from Japan and the U.S. mainland to Nadi.

"We are pleased to add Nadi to our portfolio of Pacific destinations," said Jim Compton, Continental's executive vice president marketing.

"Fiji is a popular vacation spot that attracts visitors from around the world and we see a strong demand for leisure travel to the area."

The service will be operated by Continental Micronesia using Boeing 737-800 aircraft with 14 seats in business class and 141 seats in economy on the routes.

The flights from Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport will operate on Mondays and Fridays departing at 10:55pm and arriving at Nadi International Airport at 7:30am the next morning.

Return flights will operate on Wednesdays and Sundays departing Nadi at 12:40am and arriving in Guam at 5:10am the same day.

The flights from Honolulu International Airport will operate on Mondays and Fridays departing at 6:55pm and arriving in Nadi at 11:40pm the following day. Return flights will operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays departing at 8:50am and arriving in Honolulu at 5:25pm the previous day, after crossing the International Date Line.

"I am very excited that the launch of the Guam-Fiji service brings convenient access to Fiji for customers in Guam and islands in Micronesia" said Charles Duncan, president for Continental Micronesia.

"Fiji has been a popular destination for high-end repeat visitors from all over the world and has also had a strong demand as a perfect honeymoon destination. We are committed to

closely working with Fiji Tourism Office and travel agency partners to further promote the attractiveness of Fiji to travelers in Guam and Micronesia as well as to grow its traffic demand."

Fiji, located in the heart of the Pacific Ocean, is a group of more than 300 islands and atolls dotted across 200,000 square miles of sea. The islands are known for their picturesque coasts, tall coconut palms and brilliant tur-

quoise lagoons fringed by coral reefs and white sandy beaches. Travelers from around the world visit Fiji for its pristine beauty, varied activities, including diving and surfing, and relaxed lifestyle. (PR-Continental)



MISSING DOGS

Reward is being offered for anyone who could help locate two lost dogs. Rupert, shown in this photo, and Rizzo went missing a week ago in Dandan. Rupert is a lowrider and is fatter than shown in this photo. His brother, Rizzo, is taller and is also fat. Both are of the same color. If anyone sees them, please contact Sheanna as soon as possible at 989-7428. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ferent attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (PR)

SVES Open House, parent orientation set

San Vicente Elementary School would like to invite all parents to its upcoming Open House (Parent Orientation) on Friday, Sept. 4, from 9am to 12pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and receive the requested supply list for the coming school year. Orientations will be held by grade level in the following classrooms:

- Kindergarten I-24
- 1st Grade K-26
- 2nd Grade E-14
- 3rd Grade K-31
- 4th Grade B-7
- 5th Grade A-2
- 6th Grade A-9

Mentorship program begins

The Youth Development Pro-

gram, Division of Youth Services, in partnership with Sports and Recreation, has announced "Cycle 6: Man'Amko Yan Manhoben Mentorship - Summer Program - Session 3. This program is free of charge and parents are required to bring their child's snacks.

AGES: 6-13 YEARS

Date: Aug. 10-21, 2009, Monday-Friday

Time: 8-11am

Location: Sports and Recreation, Ada Gym, Susupe

Slots: First 150

Activities: Volleyball, Basketball, Hip Hop Dance (Spectrum, Hip Hop Dance), Icandy, Polynesian Dance.

AGES: 14-17 YEARS

Date: August 24-September 02, 2009, Monday-Friday

Time: 8-11am

Location: Sports and Recreation, Ada Gym, Susupe

Activities: Softball, Soccer, Track and Field, Hip Hop Dance (Spectrum, Hip Hop Dance), Icandy, Polynesian Dance.

Opinion

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Pressure point

American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee are free from North Korea and safe in the arms of their families once again. Hats off to former President Clinton for his tactful performance while retrieving them from Kim Jong Il. He achieved a happy ending to a terrible drama that began in March when the two women, reporters for former Vice President Al Gore's Current TV who were working on a story about North Korean refugees in China, were arrested for allegedly straying into that country's hermetically sealed territory. They faced the prospect of a dozen years in Mr. Kim's notorious gulag.

One question for U.S. foreign policy is whether Washington paid an acceptable price for the release of what were, in effect, hostages of the North Korean regime. The Obama administration says that Mr. Clinton's mission was a private humanitarian one and denies North Korean claims that he delivered an "apology" from Washington. Still, the administration paid political ransom, both by acceding to Mr. Kim's demand for an American envoy of the former president's stature and by accepting a "pardon" for the journalists rather than unconditional release. "The two journalists and their families have expressed great remorse for this incident, and I think everyone is very sorry that it happened," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said last month—which was not quite an official apology but did implicitly accept the North Korean case against the two, including their "confessions."

These are not ideal signals to send, either to North Korea or to other hostage-taking, repressive states. But the Obama administration did not cross the line between placating North Korea and capitulating to it. The important thing was not to adjust U.S. policy on the nuclear issue in return for the hostages; so far the administration seems to have avoided that. Mrs. Clinton reiterated Wednesday that Mr. Kim's audience with her husband was not a prelude to meeting North Korea's demand for direct talks outside the regional framework that includes Japan, South Korea, China and Russia. The administration will have to back that up by insisting on full enforcement of U.N. sanctions, which were toughened two months ago in response to North Korea's recent nuclear test and missile launches. China and Russia back the sanctions, a departure from their past indulgence that might also explain Pyongyang's desire to behave more tractably.

For 15 years, North Korea has been stringing Washington and other governments along, pocketing billions of dollars in aid without fully complying with commitments to denuclearize. Mr. Obama is right not to repurchase concessions that North Korea has sold before.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

MARGOLIES
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"I'm trading in that heap for this new, more efficient model"

What Biden should have said

Joe Biden has caught hell the past couple of weeks for making some fairly obvious observations to a reporter about Russia's internal problems and for implying that the interests of such a weakened country needn't worry the United States all that much. Moscow officialdom has responded in high dudgeon, and Russian commentators are insisting that the vice president has revealed the dark and irresponsible motives behind American policy. Administration spokesmen dismiss it as just another Biden gaffe.

It's no surprise that comments about Russia's demographic decline, its over-dependence on commodity exports, the shakiness of its banks and so on can be interpreted to mean that the United States intends to push the envelope at Moscow's expense — and expects to get away with it. Yet it appears that what the reporter asked the vice president was not why America is doing so much to provoke Russia but, rather, why the United States thinks it can deter Russian power while doing so little. As a response to this question, Biden's answer sounded more like an attempt to change the subject, an uneasy way of saying that maybe the Russians, with all their problems at home, will end up deterring themselves. No need for the United States to push the envelope after all.

An uproar, in other words, about whether the United States is overreaching and disregarding Russia's interests should perhaps have been about whether America is trying to succeed on the cheap and is failing to uphold its own interests. But no matter which question the vice president was asked, the Obama administration needs a more convincing answer.

In explaining that the United States is not putting itself on a collision course with Russia, Biden could have claimed credit for what has already been accomplished. And to reassure those who think that U.S. policy is long on talk and short on action, he would have to be more candid about what it will take to strengthen the independence of Russia's neighbors.

Showing that the administration is serious about Russian-American relations is the easy part of dealing with the Biden flap. By now Russian policy-makers have seen enough of U.S. policy to know that Washington's guiding thought is not how to bring Russia to its knees. The administration is not counting on Russia's backwardness to win its cooperation. It's counting on common interest.

In his visit to Moscow last month, President Obama accorded Russian leaders a degree of deference that even close allies have been denied. He went far toward building a relationship centered on the strategic nuclear balance — the heart of Russia's claim to be a great power. He accepted a connection between arms reductions and missile defense that was probably President Dmitry Medvedev's top priority at the summit. And he went easy on an

By STEPHEN SESTANOVICH
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and professor of international diplomacy at Columbia University. He was U.S. ambassador at large for the former Soviet Union from 1997 to 2001.



embarrassing recent example of shortsighted Russian decision-making — Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's still-unexplained scuttling of 16 years of effort to get Russia into the World Trade Organization.

The administration has a good story to tell about the Russian-American relationship it is trying to build. Can it say as much about what it is doing to bolster Russia's neighbors? It's silly to suggest that Russia's weak banking system or declining population or any of its other internal problems might keep it from pummeling Georgia again if the opportunity arose. Yet there are forces at work of a very different kind that favor U.S. interests.

Almost all the states of the former Soviet Union are already working with Western governments, and with each other, to increase their independence from Moscow. When Kyrgyzstan lets the United States keep using its air base to reach Afghanistan despite Russian bribes; when Uzbekistan refuses to join a rapid-reaction military force that Russia wants to create; when Turkmenistan invites American and European companies to help break Gazprom's grip on its energy exports; when the president of Armenia invites the president of Georgia (who is still denounced by Moscow as a genocidal murderer) to receive an award — all in the space of a few months, it's clear that the geopolitical tide is moving in the right direction.

This trend does not mean that American support for Russia's neighbors is unnecessary, only that it has a realistic chance to succeed. What Dean Acheson called "the added energy and power of America" will often be decisive. These states want military training and equipment so they can stand up to intimidation. They want the access to international markets that frees them from economic subordination. They want the diplomatic attention that allows them to resist interference in their internal affairs.

These are the practical problems on which the Obama administration needs to make progress if it wants to support the independence of Russia's neighbors. Only if it gets these problems right will reporters get a better answer the next time around.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Paper sons,' hidden pasts

A few years ago, I corresponded with a young Chinese American man who complained that his grandparents didn't treat his father and him like the rest of the family. I asked if his father might have been a "paper son"—someone who had come to this country from China using papers claiming false U.S. citizenship and often false blood ties. My correspondent had never heard the term, but he asked his father, and it turned out I was right. I met the young man a few days later, and he was devastated. All the people he thought were his relatives—his grandparents, aunts and uncles, and all of his cousins—were not related to him at all, and they had kept it from him his entire life.

All people have secrets, but immigrants have more secrets than most. What were they fleeing from in their home countries? How did they get here? What did they do to establish citizenship? The process of becoming an American citizen is often just as rife with embarrassment, shame and survivor's guilt as it is with honor, pride and reverence.

In the Chinese American community, nothing is more of a secret or more insidious in its consequences than the tradition of paper sons, which can trace its origins to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. That law barred the entry of all Chinese immigrants to the United States except for those who were diplomats, academics, ministers or merchants.

At first there was only one way to get around the law: masquerade as a merchant. My great-grandfather, for example, was a legitimate merchant, but he had many "paper partners"—those who paid him a fee to be listed as one of his partners, hence a merchant—in the paperwork he was required to show the government every six months.

A new opportunity for citizenship arose after the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, when all birth records for the state were destroyed. Suddenly Chinese men who were already in the U.S. could claim that they'd been born here. (This was important, because until 1943 it was against the law for Chinese to become naturalized citizens. So many men claimed U.S. citizenship this way that it was said for it to be true, every Chinese woman in California pre-1906 would have needed to have given birth to 600 sons.)

This loophole was a boon, for it allowed Chinese men to return to China as U.S. citizens, report that their wives had given birth to a son there (a child born to a U.S. citizen abroad is automatically eligible to be a U.S. citizen) and receive a piece of paper creating a "paper son." This document could then be used by a real son or sold to a friend, neighbor, relative or total stranger. The paper sons adopted their new surnames, then came to the U.S. as citizens and lived with their new families as sons and brothers. Later, they were able to bring in wives and children and sometimes even bring in paper sons themselves.

It sounds complicated because it was. It needed to be complicated. It was the very nature and depth of the complications that confused and

often stumped immigration inspectors. But they also confused and bewildered families. Most pioneer Chinese American families have relatives who aren't related by blood. In my family, I had an uncle who wasn't an actual uncle. I had another uncle who was related in some way but many, many times removed. I didn't know the truth about these relationships until I was in my 30s. In other families, these things are open secrets: "I'm a Yee, but I was born a Wong."

Even after the Exclusion Act was overturned in 1943, the legacy of paper sons continued. For my book, "Shanghai Girls," I interviewed people about the U.S. government's "confession program," which be-

It sounds complicated because it was. It needed to be complicated. It was the very nature and depth of the complications that confused and often stumped immigration inspectors. But they also confused and bewildered families. Most pioneer Chinese American families have relatives who aren't related by blood. In my family, I had an uncle who wasn't an actual uncle. I had another uncle who was related in some way but many, many times removed. I didn't know the truth about these relationships until I was in my 30s. In other families, these things are open secrets: "I'm a Yee, but I was born a Wong."

gan in 1957 and asked Chinese who came here as paper sons to confess and then receive legitimate citizenship. But in this amnesty program, it wasn't enough to confess about yourself; you also had to rat out your friends, neighbors, business associates and even family members. Better yet, if you could say that you suspected so-and-so of being a communist, you'd get your citizenship for sure. This program ripped apart communities, businesses and families.

Even when the government wasn't actively interfering, immigration secrets affected all facets of families' daily lives: school, work, marriage, any time they had to sign a piece of paper. When my father was in elementary school, he announced to his class that his

against them, keeping the U.N. Security Council at bay for years. Mohammed Javad Larijani, a former deputy foreign minister and brother to Rowhani's successor as chief negotiator, admitted the logic of diplomatic engagement from the Iranian side: "Diplomacy must be used to lessen pressure on Iran for its nuclear program."

Advocates of engagement with Iran often use an unfair argument to advance their case: Their cause, they claim, is opposed mainly by Israel, which is pushing its own narrow agenda. True, Israel is a target of Iran, whose leadership calls for the "elimination of Israel from the region"—to quote the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said this years before President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. So that there would be no confusion about Iranian intent, Khamenei's words were hung from a Shahab 3 missile in a military parade in 2003.

But Israel is not Iran's only target. If that were the case, the Iranians would have had no reason to develop missiles that fly well past Israeli territory to Central Europe and beyond.

In fact, the greatest engagement skeptics today are the leaders of the Sunni Arab states from Morocco to Bahrain. The Persian Gulf states, in particular, have repeatedly been the targets of Iranian subversion operations. Bahrain was called the 14th province of Iran earlier in 2009 by one of Khamenei's key advisers. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been attacked by Iranian-backed Hezbollah operatives in the past. Iran still occupies islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, close to the oil tanker routes that go through the Strait of Hormuz.

And Egypt just cracked a large Iranian-supported Hezbollah cell that was planning attacks on key economic centers in the Egyptian state. For these reasons, Arab officials don't need prompting from Israel. Their common fear is that a nuclear Iran will embolden groups such as Hezbollah, which will feel it enjoys a nuclear sponsor protecting it from any retaliatory action. Unlike their Western counterparts, these Arab officials are savvy enough to distinguish between status quo states that just want to assure the security of

Iran's nuclear aims threaten the world

Defying history and logic, the idea that the West should diplomatically engage with Iran still commands an important following.

Despite the massive waves of demonstrators across Iran who charged their government with rigging the June 12 presidential elections, there still are officials in the Obama administration who seem to believe that engagement with the Islamic Republic should "remain on the table," as columnist Roger Cohen put it in The New York Times Magazine this week.

Javier Solana, the European Union foreign policy chief, agrees: "We would like very much that soon we will have the possibility to restart multilateral talks with Iran on the important nuclear issues," he said on June 24.

But they're wrong, just as they have been from the start. Indeed, there are plenty of reasons to be skeptical about sticking to engagement. The main one is that it has already been tried—and utterly failed. Iran has consistently used the West's willingness to engage as a delaying tactic, a smoke screen behind which Iran's nuclear program has continued undeterred and, in many cases, undetected.

Back in 2005, Hassan Rowhani, the former chief nuclear negotiator of Iran during the reformist presidency of Mohammad Khatami, made a stunning confession in an internal briefing in Tehran, just as he was leaving his post. He explained that in the period during which he sat across from European negotiators discussing Iran's uranium enrichment ambitions, Iran quietly managed to complete the critical second stage of uranium fuel production: its uranium conversion plant in Isfahan. He boasted that the day Iran started its negotiations in 2003 "there was no such thing as the Isfahan project." Now, he said, it was complete.

Rowhani's revelation showed clearly how Iran exploited the West's engagement. Moreover, the Iranians violated their 2004 agreement with the EU and brilliantly dragged out further negotiations that followed. Equally important, they delayed Western punitive moves

against them, keeping the U.N. Security Council at bay for years.

By LISA SEE

Special to the Los Angeles Times



See is the author of, most recently, *Shanghai Girls*.

parents weren't married. (California's miscegenation laws lasted until 1948. His parents—as did all my relatives who entered into mixed marriages—married in Mexico.)

Laws are one thing, but not much comes close to the cruelty and cliquishness of elementary school mothers. My grandmother never forgot or forgave the humiliation heaped on her by the other mothers.

My half-Chinese great-uncle instilled in his daughters the following: "Never ever tell anyone you're a quarter Chinese." The reason: He had bought a house in Beverly Hills, and until 1948 it was against the law in California for people who were even one-quarter Chinese to own property here, just as it was against the law for him to be married to his white wife.

It was one of the many times that our non-Asian sounding family name, See, came in handy. But it didn't do much to take away the fear my cousins felt as children that they would be found out.

California last month formally apologized to thousands of Chinese immigrants who helped build the state while facing persistent racism and debilitating laws targeting them. The state's action is part of a trend that includes Congress' apologies for slavery and for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. But what do these apologies do for people living with the consequences of decades of secrets?

Some Holocaust survivors never mention what happened to them in the camps. The same holds true for many Japanese Americans who were interned. Some Chinese Americans can banter at a banquet about family secrets, while others hold on to them no matter what kind of pain they might bring to others or the solace the lifting of them might bring to themselves. Still others, like those who pushed for the state's apology, believe that the only way to guarantee that we can never forget or repeat what happened in the past is to bring the horrors out into the open.

This last is the correct view, but I can't help thinking of a man I interviewed a couple of years ago. He was a paper son who confessed in 1957. He told me: "We've never told our children or our grandchildren what happened back then. We aren't dead yet, so we aren't safe yet."

Apologies are all well and good, but they do little to help the people who suffered or take away more than a century of fear.

By DORE GOLD

Special to the Los Angeles Times



Gold, writing from Jerusalem, served as Israel's ambassador to the United Nations from 1997 to 1999. His new book, *The Rise of Nuclear Iran: How Tehran Defies the West*, will be published in September.

their borders and ideologically driven revolutionary powers like Iran with expansive aims.

An Iran with hegemonic aspirations will not be talked out of acquiring nuclear weapons through a new Western incentives package. Only the most severe economic measures aimed at Iran's dependence on imported gasoline, backed with the threat of Western military power, might pull the Iranians back at the last minute. Until now, U.N. sanctions on Iran have been too hasty to have any real effect.

It is critical to understand that an Iran that crosses the nuclear threshold after repeated warnings that doing so is "unacceptable" would be even less likely to be deterred in the future. It would provide global terrorism the kind of protective umbrella that al-Qaida never had back on 9/11, including Hezbollah cells located at present in Central Europe and Latin America. Some Arab states, like Qatar, have already been largely "Finlandized," to borrow a Cold War term for states that make their foreign policy subservient to the wishes of a powerful neighbor. But as Iran's nuclear program continues unopposed, more Arab states will follow, changing the Middle East entirely.

Halting the Iranian nuclear program is a global imperative; acquiescing to a nuclear Iran in the hope that it will pragmatically understand the limits of its own power would be a colossal mistake.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.			
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Majuro	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 43
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 73
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 91 ▼ 83
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
London	Partly Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 50
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 80
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 70
Osaka	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 56
Pusan	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 69
Rome	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 68
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 57
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 65
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 75

Tides

Saipan Harbor	
3:15 AM Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
8:21 AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
3:17 PM Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet
9:47 PM Today	High Tide: 1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	6:01 AM	6:44 PM	Today
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM	Sunday
Monday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM	Monday
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM	Tuesday
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM	Wednesday

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PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 21, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09597 11:50am 12:20pm 1, 7 via ROP
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily
NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily
NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO
NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily
C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6
via KIX
OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN
OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN
OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN
OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6
C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6
C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP
C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily
C09600 10:20am 11:00am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP
C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily
C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily
NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily
NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO
NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily
C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10-30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10-30pm

Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30-7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am-7:45pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 8, 2000

Man gunned down by men in ski mask

Two unidentified men, armed with short firearms, gunned down a 33-year-old Hong Kong Chinese and injured his woman companion during a dawn attack yesterday at a restaurant in Chalan Piao, according to police. The victim, whose name was withheld by the Department of Public Safety, sustained multiple gunshot wounds after the suspects in ski mask opened fired at him while eating at BBQ Restaurant around 4:00 a.m.. The victim's female companion sustained wounds from the shooting and was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

Hopwood enforces stringent dress code

The new administration of Hopwood Junior High School has vowed to enforce proper dress code among its students ruling out skimpy, daring tank tops and excessively loose pants or skirts both for female and male students. Returning Hopwood Principal David Borja yesterday said the fresh move has been enforced to create a school spirit more conducive for Vice Principal for Curriculum, Instruction and Discipline Brenda Haddox had to call parents of close to 20 students during yesterday's school opening for a fresh change of clothes.

Aug. 8, 2001

109 running for public office

Twenty-seven candidates will run without party affiliation while none of the four political parties were able to submit a complete slate for the November election. The Commission on Election yesterday disclosed it received the petitions for candidacy of 109 individuals seeking government posts, including a position in the local council and the Board of Education. Four individuals are competing for the gubernatorial post, three are running for the Washington Representative position, 17 are vying for the local senatorial seats and 48 are after the 18 seats in the House of Representatives.

Scramble on to fix payroll problem at the Legislature

Lawmakers and executive branch officials are now scrambling to resolve the standoff between the Legislature and the Department of Finance over the retirement contributions of legislative employees, in an effort to avoid payless paydays at the Legislature. According to acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack, he has been sitting down in a series of meetings with leaders of the Legislature and the Office of Budget and Management since last week to find ways of resolving the retirement contribution deficit of legislative employees. "Yes, we are meeting with some people about this. However, I would rather not discuss the negotiations over the newspaper until such time that things are ironed out," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Aug. 8, 2002

Burglars target Saipan schools

In a span of three weeks, six schools have fallen prey to burglaries, leaving the affected campuses practically scant of their much-needed instructional gadgets such as computers, cassette players, tapes, digital cameras, televisions sets and more. Most recently, Koblerville, Dandan and William S. Reyes elementary schools were burglarized by unknown suspects. Acting Public Safety spokesperson Thomas A. Blas Jr. reported that two computer sets were stolen from KES. DES Principal Jonas Barcina said his school lost its digital camera, a TV set, camcorder, stereo system and more.

Police nab suspects in school burglaries

Anonymous calls made to the Crime Stoppers Hotline helped authorities track down one suspect in the August 1 Calvary Christian Academy burglary in Chalan Kiya. Acting Public Safety spokesperson Thomas A. Blas Jr. reported the arrest Tuesday night of John-Richard P. Deleon Guerrero, 26. Members of the Thief Apprehension Select Coalition nabbed Guerrero by the hotel district in Garapan. During the apprehension, the suspect was allegedly found in possession of crystal methamphetamine.

Business

Congress OKs \$2B refill of 'cash for clunkers'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pedal to the metal, Congress sent President Barack Obama legislation Thursday night with an additional \$2 billion for "cash for clunkers," the economy-boosting rebate program that caught the fancy of car buyers and instantly increased sales for an auto industry long mired in recession.

The Senate approved the money on a 60-37 vote after administration officials said an initial \$1 billion had run out in only 10 days. The House voted last week to keep alive the program, which gives consumers up to \$4,500 in federal subsidies if they trade in their cars for new, more energy-efficient models.

Without action, lawmakers risked a wave of voter discontent as they left the Capitol for a monthlong vacation.

Supporters of the program hailed its effect on the auto industry—which had its best month in nearly a year in July—as well as its claimed environmental benefits.

"The reality is this is a program that has been working. Consumers believe it's working. Small business people believe

Fewer layoffs expected as recession winds down

WASHINGTON (AP)—First, the good news. Workers probably got slapped with fewer pink slips in July as the worst recession since World War II winds down.

Now, the reality check. A paucity of job openings means nearly 15 million unemployed Americans are still looking for jobs, and their ranks are likely to keep growing into 2010.

Labor Department data due out Friday is expected to show job losses slowing in July to a pace of around 320,000, with unemployment rising to 9.6 percent, up from 9.5 percent the previous month. If the job-loss estimate is on target, it would be a heartening improvement from June's 467,000 job losses—and the slowest pace for job losses since August 2008.

Slower job losses are anticipated because companies aren't cutting investment and spending as drastically as they had been during the depths of the recession which came in the final quarter of last year and carried over into the first quarter of this year. And, recent barometers have shown some improvements in manufacturing, housing and construction activity.

The government reported last week that the economy shrank at a pace of just 1 percent from April-to-June, the

strongest signal yet that the recession may be ending.

Many analysts predict the economy could start growing again in the current July-to-September quarter. And, the Fed recently observed that the economy is finally showing signs of stabilizing in some regions of the country—especially in parts of the Northeast and Midwest—bolstering hopes of a broader-based recovery this year.

However, the anticipated slowdown in layoffs won't prevent the unemployment rate from rising for the 10th month in a row and to the highest level in 26 years.

The good news, bad news picture in the labor market suggests that employers are feeling more comfortable about slowing down firings but still aren't ready to ramp up hirings.

Companies won't kick up hiring until they are confident a recovery will have staying power. And, the anticipated recovery is expected to be slow. Exactly how it unfolds will hinge partly on the behavior of consumers, whose spending accounts for the single-largest slice of economic activity.

Given rising unemployment, recession-ravaged investment portfolios, and, in some cases, stagnant or falling wages, they are staying cautious.

Nation

Sotomayor OK'd for Supreme Court in historic vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sonia Sotomayor won confirmation Thursday as the nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice, a history-making Senate vote that capped a summer-long debate heavy with ethnic politics and hints of high court fights to come.

The third woman in court history, she'll be sworn in Saturday as the 111th justice and the first nominated by a Democrat in 15 years.

The Senate vote was 68-31 to confirm Sotomayor, President Barack Obama's first Supreme Court nominee, with Democrats unanimously behind her but most Republicans lining up in a show of opposition both for her and for the president's standards for a justice.

The 55-year-old daughter of Puerto Rican parents was raised in a South Bronx housing project and educated in the Ivy League before rising to the highest legal echelons, spending the past 17 years as a federal



Supreme Court Justice designate Sonia Sotomayor is congratulated at the federal courthouse in New York after being confirmed by the Senate as the nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009.

judge. She watched the vote on TV at a federal courthouse in New York City, among friends and colleagues.

Republicans argued she'd

bring personal bias and a liberal agenda to the bench. But Democrats praised Sotomayor as an extraordinarily qualified mainstream moderate

and touted her elevation to the court as a milestone in the nation's journey toward greater equality and a reaffirmation of the American dream.

Obama, the nation's first black president, praised the Senate's vote as "breaking another barrier and moving us yet another step closer to a more perfect union." He planned to welcome Sotomayor at the White House next week.

Minutes before the vote, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the Judiciary Committee chairman, called it one for the ages. "Years from now ... we will remember this time when we crossed paths with the quintessentially American journey of Sonia Sotomayor."

Senators took the rare step of assembling at their desks for the vote, rising from their seats to call out "aye" or "nay." The longest-serving senator, 91-year-old Robert Byrd of West Virginia,

who has been in frail health following a long hospitalization, was brought in in a wheelchair to vote in Sotomayor's favor. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., suffering from brain cancer, was the only senator absent.

Sotomayor replaces retiring Justice David Souter, a liberal named by a Republican president, and she is not expected to alter the court's ideological split.

Still, Republicans and Democrats were deeply at odds over confirming Sotomayor, and the battle over her nomination highlighted profound philosophical disagreements that will shape future fights over the court's makeup as Obama looks to another likely vacancy—perhaps more than one—while he's in the White House.

ACROSS THE NATION

13-year-old girl kept in Dallas jail for 2 weeks

DALLAS (AP)—A 13-year-old girl arrested for shoplifting was held in the Dallas County Jail for nearly two weeks before it was determined that she is underage, a police sergeant said Thursday. An internal affairs investigation has been launched to review the matter, police Sgt. Warren Mitchell told The Associated Press on Thursday night. The girl, who had run away from home, was arrested July 10 at a Target department store for shoplifting. She held no identification and gave a false name and age, Mitchell said. The sergeant said the arresting officer attempted to contact the police youth division to confirm the information but found no record of her. The arresting officer assumed she was 17 and took her to jail, Mitchell said, but did not say how he made that assumption.

cializes in mental health issues, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Thursday.

Ex-Edwards mistress at court amid campaign probe

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—The ex-mistress of John Edwards spent much of Thursday in a federal courthouse in Raleigh where a grand jury was meeting, at a time when federal investigators are examining the two-time presidential candidate's finances. Rielle Hunter walked into the building in the morning through a back entrance, holding a young child and left with the child about nine hours later. Neither Hunter nor her attorney, Michael Critchley, responded to reporters' questions.

Grand jury indicts 4 former Ill. cemetery workers

CHICAGO (AP)—Four workers accused of digging up corpses at a historic Chicago-area cemetery as part of a scheme to resell plots have been indicted on a host of felony charges, including desecration of human remains, conspiracy to dismember human bodies and theft, prosecutors said

Pa. shooter had company in feelings of isolation

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Before opening fire on an aerobics class, George Sodini wrote about feeling lonely and rejected—yet those very characteristics put him in the company of other mass killers whose isolation helped create a murderous cocktail. Sodini's deadly rampage at a suburban Pittsburgh health club shares threads with other massacres analyzed by psychiatrists and legal experts, who say the line between lonely and homicidal remains hard to place.

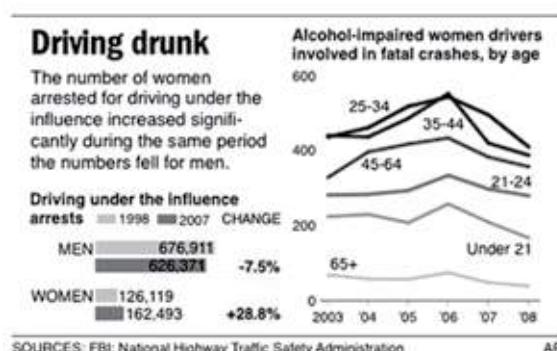
"These people get into a very self-centered, sometimes self-aggrandizing, often psychotic path that enables them, in their mind, to finally get the attention they crave," New York attorney Carolyn Wolf, whose firm spe-

Experts: Women are drinking more, DUIs are up

NEW YORK (AP)—It seemed too horrendous even to imagine. But the case of the mother who caused a deadly wrong-way crash while drunk and stoned is part of a disturbing trend: Women in the U.S. are drinking more, and drunken-driving arrests among women are rising rapidly while falling among men.

And some of those women, as in the New York case, are getting behind the wheel with kids in the back.

Men still drink more than women and are responsible for more drunken-driving cases. But the gap is narrowing, and among the reasons cited are that women are feeling greater pressures at work and home, they are driving more, and they are behaving more recklessly.



"Younger women feel more empowered, more equal to men, and have been beginning to exhibit the same uninhibited behaviors as men," said Chris Cochran of the California Office of Traffic Safety.

Another possible reason cited for the ris-

ing arrests: Police are less likely to let women off the hook these days.

Nationwide, the number of women arrested for driving under the influence or alcohol or drugs was 28.8 percent higher in 2007 than it was in 1998, while the number of men arrested was 7.5 percent lower, according to FBI figures that cover about 56 percent of the country. (Despite the incomplete sample, Alfred Blumstein, a Carnegie Mellon University criminologist, said the trend probably holds true for the country as a whole.)

"Women are picking up some of the dangerously bad habits of men," said Chuck Hurley, CEO of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Ling's sister: Reporter touched North Korean soil

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Laura Ling's sister says the two American journalists briefly touched North Korean soil before they were captured and detained for months in that communist country.

"She said that it was maybe 30 seconds and then everything got chaotic. It's a very powerful story, and she does want to share it," Lisa Ling told CNN Thursday.

A day after the reporters returned from Pyongyang on a private plane, Lisa Ling said her sister is still weak, exhausted and emotional.

Lisa Ling described how her sister clings to her family after months of isolation. She said she even went to a doctor's appointment with her sister, just to keep her company.



Ling

Lisa Ling said Euna Lee's husband told her that his 4-year-old daughter, Hana, spent all day following Lee around the house from room to room. At one point during

her detention, Lee called and

left a voicemail message saying how much she loved her daughter, Lisa Ling said.

"They could play it for Hana all the time. Of all of us, little Hana had the most confidence that she would be seeing her mom soon," Lisa Ling said.

Laura Ling told her family she was treated humanely, but meals were meager and her

phone calls were monitored, Lisa Ling said.

"She had two guards in her room at all times, morning and night. And even though they couldn't speak to her, somehow they developed a strange sort of kinship," Lisa Ling said. "She had some really lovely things to say about the people who were watching over her."

Ouch! Early flu shot season comes with 3 jabs

ATLANTA (AP)—Get ready to roll up your sleeve three times for flu shots this fall. That's right, three times. This year's flu season is shaping up to be a very different one. Most people will need one shot for the regular seasonal flu and probably two others to protect against the new swine flu.

Experts suggest you get that first shot as early as this month—if you can find it.

"We'd like to get to Job 1 and get most of it done," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University flu expert, referring to seasonal flu vaccinations.

"Get it done before we start to tackle Job 2," the more complex task of swine flu vaccinations, he added.

The five vaccine manufacturers that supply the United States are finishing up production of seasonal flu vaccine earlier than usual. Health officials say they expect about half of the more than 120 million doses of seasonal vaccine to be available by the end of this month. Most of the rest are due out by the end of September. Some manufacturers report that distributors are quickly buying up supplies.

Asia

Pakistan, US: Taliban chief Mehsud may be dead

ISLAMABAD (AP)—U.S. and Pakistani authorities were investigating whether Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud, who has led a violent campaign of suicide attacks and assassinations against Pakistan's government, was killed in a CIA missile strike.

A Pakistani official said Friday that reports of the militant leader's death were based on communication intercepts. A senior U.S. intelligence official said there were strong indications that Mehsud was among those killed in the attack, but he would not elaborate.

If confirmed, Mehsud's demise would be a major boost to Pakistani and U.S. efforts to eradicate the Taliban and al-Qaida.

Mehsud has al-Qaida connections and has been suspected in the killing of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Pakistan views him as its top internal threat and has been preparing an offensive against him. The U.S. sees him as a danger to the war effort in Afghanistan,



In this photo taken Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, Pakistani villagers look at a house belonging to supporters of Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud which was destroyed by authorities in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan.

largely because of the threat he is believed to pose to nuclear-armed Pakistan.

The missile strike hit the home of Mehsud's father-in-law in Pakistan's South Waziristan

tribal region early Wednesday. Intelligence officials say Mehsud's second wife was among at least two people killed, and Mehsud associates have claimed he was not among the dead.

AP NewsBreak: US looks to Vietnam for Afghan tips

BRUSSELS (AP)—Top U.S. officials have reached out to a leading Vietnam war scholar to discuss the similarities of that conflict 40 years ago with American involvement in Afghanistan, where the U.S. is seeking ways to isolate an elusive guerrilla force and win over a skeptical local population.

The overture to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Stanley

SKorea doing everything to free citizens in North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president said Friday the country is "doing everything it can" to win the release of its citizens detained in North Korea, after former President Bill Clinton brought home two American journalists.

The release of reporters Euna

Lee and Laura Ling raised calls for Seoul to do more for five South Koreans being held in the North, one since late March.

With ties between the Koreas at a historic low, Pyongyang has refused to talk about the detainees, and South Korea has ruled out the possibility of sending an

envoy to negotiate their release.

South Korean and Japanese officials said Clinton urged the North to free the South Koreans and to address a decades-old abduction of Japanese citizens during his landmark trip to Pyongyang earlier this week that included a rare meeting with leader Kim Jong Il.

Officials: Attacks kill 4 US troops, 15 Afghans

KABUL (AP)—Four U.S. Marines were killed Thursday when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in western Afghanistan, driving up Western military deaths at a pace that would make August one of the deadliest months of the war. Civilian casualties have also been sharply rising, and a southern Afghan police chief said a U.S. airstrike had killed five farmers picking their cucumber crop at night. The U.S. military said the men were insurgents, but offered conflicting accounts throughout the day of the reason an American helicopter opened fire. At least 15 Western troops have been killed in Afghanistan in August. Attacks killed at least 44 U.S. service members and 31 from other international military forces in July, according to military reports.

Pregnant Briton jailed in Laos flown home

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—A pregnant Briton sentenced to life imprisonment in Laos for trafficking heroin flew home Thursday to serve the remainder of her sentence, just weeks before she was due to give birth. Samantha Orobator, 20, was sentenced in June after pleading guilty to drug trafficking. Police said they found 1.5 pounds (680 grams) of heroin in 68 capsules on Orobator's body when she was arrested at Vientiane airport last August on her way to Australia. Her case drew widespread attention in Britain over fears that she could be executed by a firing squad and reports—later discounted by her mother—that she was raped in prison. Her mother, Jane, has said the father is not a Lao prison official but has refused to divulge his identity.

World

A calmer Iraq takes on another killer—smoking

BAGHDAD (AP)—After six years of war and terrorist bombings, Iraq is moving against a different killer in its midst—smoking. Sweeping curbs unveiled by the government Thursday suggest that as the violence subsides, authorities have more time to worry about normal quality-of-life issues. The legislation to go before parliament would ban smoking in public buildings, outlaw sales to under-18s, prohibit advertising, limit tar content and mandate health warnings on cigarette packs.

In heavy-smoking Iraq, where people indulge on buses, in schools and in hospitals, initial street reactions were mixed, with some welcoming the measure and others saying it would be difficult to enforce and that

the government has more pressing issues to tackle.

"The government should solve the problems of electricity, the lack of drinking water and get rid of financial corruption. This smoking law should be last on its list," griped Mohammed Hussein, 45, an oil ministry employee who said he smoked for 25 years before quitting.

Abbas Hazad, 39, sat with his pregnant wife and two daughters in a park, lit up a cigarette and said he was fine with the planned law.

"I know that many people don't like the smell of smoke," he said. "I think Iraq is being given a break—we're starting to think more about our quality of life whereas before we were dealing with terrorism and bombings."

NKorea, Iran use similar script to get their way

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The parallels between Iran and North Korea would seem to riff off the same West-rattling script: start a nuclear program, test some long-range missiles, demand international respect.

But the latest mirror moment for the two nations—nabbing Americans accused of straying across the border—shows that the symmetry goes only so far.

The type of star-power mission by former President Bill Clinton this week to free two U.S. journalists is far less likely—but perhaps not impossible—to try to aid three

Americans detained by Iranian authorities last week after allegedly wandering over the frontier during a hike in northern Iraq.

The differences, analysts say, include the complexities of dealing with Iran's mix of ruling clerics, elected politicos and military commanders, rather than a one-stop strongman such as North Korea's Kim Jong Il.

And the timing couldn't be more difficult. The meltdown after June's disputed election has left Iran's leadership embattled and alleging that foreign "enemies"—read: the Clinton vows new US support for Somalia

Clinton warned Eritrea, accused by the U.S. of supporting the extremist Somali militia known as al-Shabab, that it would face penalties if it continues to supply the group with arms and funding.

So once parliament reconvenes next month and approves the law, Iraqis could encounter a sight familiar in New York, London, Hong Kong and every other city where smoking is restricted—smokers huddled outside their office buildings and puffing away. That would have been risky when bombings, drive-by shootings and kidnappings were commonplace.

Attacks continue daily. But July, with at least 309 Iraqis killed nationwide, was the fourth quietest month since The Associated Press began tracking war-related fatalities in May 2005. Seven American troop deaths were reported—the lowest monthly total since the war started in March 2003, according to the AP tally.

United States and its allies—are behind the nation's worst internal unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Iran is far more complicated politically for this kind of outside-the-government mercy mission," said Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a professor of political science at Emirates University. "In North Korea, you have a one-man show. In Iran, you have to deal with the entire system, not just one man."

That doesn't mean Iran would necessarily snub a personal appeal from a big-name envoy, he added.

Clinton vows new US support for Somalia

"It is long past time for Eritrea to cease and desist its support for al-Shabab," she said. "We are making it very clear that their actions are unacceptable. We intend to take action if they do not cease."

At the State Department, spokesman Robert A. Wood added that Eritrea was providing weapons and other support to al-Shabab "and we want them to stop."

Clinton said the Obama administration would boost military supplies and other aid to the Somali government and an African peacekeeping force supporting it. She did not detail the new aid.

Clinton warned Eritrea, accused by the U.S. of supporting the extremist Somali militia known as al-Shabab, that it would face penalties if it continues to supply the group with arms and funding.

WORLD BRIEFS

Honduran coup shows business elite still in charge

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduran President Manuel Zelaya was ousted in a military coup after betraying his own kind: a small clique of families that dominates the economy. Now those same families stand as the greatest obstacle to the U.S.-backed drive to return him to power. Elites across Latin America are watching the standoff closely, as they plot their own strategies to combat democratically elected presidents such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez who have demonized the wealthy as they push for a more even distribution of in-

come. Washington has shunned the interim government so as not to legitimize it, while lobbying Honduras' business leaders in an effort to resolve the crisis. It's an acknowledgment of the tremendous sway those elites hold on the country.

Saudi man detained over alleged sex confession

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Many in this ultra-conservative kingdom, where husbands and wives rarely even kiss in public, have been scandalized by a Saudi man who spoke frankly about sex on a satellite TV program, showing off erotic toys and

fantasizing about joining the mile-high club. More than 200 people have filed legal complaints against Mazen Abdul-Jawad, dubbed a "sex braggart" by the media, and many Saudis say he should be severely punished. "His punishment should be as harsh as his sin," said lawyer Mohsen al-Awajy. "He has outraged everybody." Abdul-Jawad was detained last Friday for questioning. But his lawyer, Sulaiman al-Jumeii, said the interview, which was aired on the Lebanese-based LBC satellite TV station, was manipulated. He also said his client was not aware in many instances that he was being recorded.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Filipinos on Saipan mourn their Tita Cory

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
N.RODRIGUEZ@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM
REPORTER

Filipinos fondly referred to her as their Tita Cory (Aunt Cory), catapulted to the highest post of the land despite being a "plain housewife"—a tag coined by her critics during the run-up to the snap presidential election in 1986.

Tita Cory became the Philippines' and Asia's first female president after a five-day standoff at EDSA, where a cross section of society—the ruling elite, the middle class and the common people—camped out, then marched to the presidential Malacanang Palace and eventually drove the Marcos family out.

One of these ordinary individuals who witnessed that historic event was Danilo Asuncion, who hails from Tabuk, Kalinga.

"We were just starting to settle down in Manila at that time, that's why I felt very sad when she died. If we only had our way we would have gone home and attended her funeral because we feel we owe a lot to her. We share the sentiments of the people," said Asuncion, who came to Saipan 10 years ago and is now a technician for Joe Marie Enterprises, Restaurant and Airconditioning.

Like other Filipinos on Saipan who did not even get to meet Aquino in person, Asuncion said he cried because she was the driving force behind the restoration of democratic systems in the country.

Businesswoman Violy Ablog, who has been on Saipan since the '70s and never had the chance to know more about Tita Cory's accomplishments in office, said she cried upon seeing the outpouring of grief and respect Filipinos bestowed upon her when she died.

Ablog, who monitored the The Filipino Channel's coverage since the former president's demise on the morning



although the Aquino administration was also rife with graft and corruption, "Cory was the least corrupt" among them.

"As a woman, she showed how to really love the people. She is also a model for all Filipino mothers," he said.

But even as many ordinary people praised Aquino's legacy, many in the national democratic movement who were at the forefront of the anti-Marcos dictatorship felt they were betrayed by false promises of change and people empowerment, especially in the countryside. They maintain that massive poverty still remains.

Migrante International said the millions of Filipinos going overseas for jobs is a concrete example of how neglectful the government is to the needs of the people, including during Aquino's term.

Left-leaning groups and the outlawed National Democratic Front and the Communist Party claim that Aquino missed her chance to lead the way for genuine social changes in Philippine society.

Still, the outpouring of love and gratitude has, at least for one week, unified the country and pushed aside politics and political maneuverings.

Consulate General Medardo Macaraig said Cory was one of the most remarkable Filipino leaders.

"She rekindled hope during uncertain times. She led us to hope, that there is actually a way for change. That was her legacy. She will be missed but she has done her job and it is up to us to continue it," Macaraig said.

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan has already sent a message of condolences to the Aquino family.

The consulate was also informed by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos that the CNMI government is also expressing its sympathy to the bereaved family of the former president.

Last night, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho celebrated a memorial Mass in honor of the former president at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Confetti is showered from above as the casket containing the remains of former Philippine President Corazon 'Cory' Aquino is carried out of the Manila Cathedral in Manila, Philippines Wednesday Aug. 5, 2009. Aquino was laid to rest Wednesday next to her assassinated husband after a funeral procession joined by hundreds of thousands of supporters who hailed her as an exemplar of moral leadership.

of Aug. 1, said she found no one who spoke against Aquino, adding that she is the kind of Filipino leader to emulate.

Cezar Lopez, head accountant of Century Travel, said the nation lost one of the prominent figures of the EDSA People Power revolt.

"She became the rallying figure for the Filipinos in toppling the Marcos regime. She was the voice that motivated many people to join the struggle for democracy," he said.

Lopez had the chance to see Aquino in person when the newly installed

president inaugurated a school building in Zamboanga.

Jecas Ulla, a waitstaff at Hyatt Regency Saipan, felt deep sorrow upon watching on television the funeral march for a former president of her country.

"All I know about her was that she was a religious person," she said.

Tess Restum, an employee of Palms Resort who has been on Saipan since 1989, echoed this, saying, "She's a kind person." He never had the chance to see her in person.

Lyn's Barbecue manager Violy Elbo,

a Saipan resident since 1975, said she was touched and cried while watching television reports about Aquino's death.

"All I know is that we owe a lot to her for leading the way to democracy in the Philippines. She was the mother of democracy," she said.

Rev. Manuel R. Corcuer, Vicar General of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, said that, although he has limited knowledge of Cory, he believes she "was a peaceful woman, a real person."

Hyatt's front office manager Poland Galano, who hails from Las Pinas, said

LABOR FRONT

Recruiting fees, housing benefits, reduction in force

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Where can an alien worker make claims if he or she has problem with respect to payment of recruiting fees in his or her home country?

A: If an alien worker pays recruiting fees in his or her home country, and he or she has a problem with respect to those fees, he or she must make the claims in his or her home country. The Department of Labor, in its notice to foreign national workers, also encourages alien workers to pay recruiting fees only to a licensed recruiter.

With respect to other fees, Labor

states that while an alien worker is in the CNMI, he or she is not required to pay fees in connection with his or her employment except for an annual \$25 immigration fee for an entry permit card. All other fees will be paid by the employer, and the worker should not pay these fees even if someone asks him or her to do that. It is against the law in the CNMI for the worker to pay employment-related fees.

Q: What are the current Labor rules and regulations with respect to housing and food benefits?

A: According to Labor in its notice to guest workers, an employer may

offer housing and food as a part of the employment contract. When the worker signs the contract, he or she is agreeing to the housing and food that the employer offers. The employer may make deductions from the wages for these benefits only if the contract provides for these deductions.

After a one-year contract is completed, if the contract is renewed, the worker is not required to accept the housing and food offered by the employer. The worker may provide these things for himself for herself.

If the worker provides his or her own housing and food, the employer may not deduct anything from the wages for

these benefits. If the worker does accept the benefits, the employer must provide safe and sanitary housing and food. If there are any problems with housing or food, Labor encourages the worker to report them to the department.

■ ■ ■

Q: What will happen during changing business conditions?

A: When business conditions are bad, an employer may close down part of the business or cut back operations so as to use fewer workers. According to Labor, if an employer does that, the employer must give the worker 30 days notice to inform about the reduction in force.

During the reduction, U.S. citizens are given a preference for the jobs and guest workers who have been in the CNMI longer are also given preference for the positions.

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Endless stream of people visit Aquino's tomb

By NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA,
JULIE M. AURELIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—“An extraordinary scene.”

They came in an endless stream from almost everywhere, in cars, jeepneys and tricycles. One man came in crutches. Some came with flowers, others with candles. All came with prayers.

Most prayed for former President Corazon Aquino’s eternal repose. One elderly woman prayed for her intercession.

“Please tell God to heal all of our country’s problems,” the unidentified woman said.

A day after she was buried in a stirring funeral joined by hundreds of thousands of people, Aquino’s gravesite at Manila Me-

orial Park in Parañaque City drew numerous visitors from Metro Manila and the provinces.

“Tita Cory’s humility even in death always amazes us and so we love her even more,” Massbate businesswoman Ligaya Calucod told the Philippine Daily Inquirer, struck by the simplicity of the cement tomb of the woman who once electrified the world by challenging and toppling a dictator.

The Aquinos’ lone son, Sen. Benigno “Noy” Aquino III, who was at a Mass elsewhere, said the family was deeply touched.

Asked by a television reporter about calls by some supporters for his mother to be declared a saint, Noy said: “We are flattered that everybody said that instead of praying for her, they prayed through her.”

Side by side

Cory lies in the family mausoleum next to the equally simple tomb of her murdered husband, opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr.

“Seeing their resting place, you will be really amazed how simple the Aquinos are,” Calucod said.

Gated mausoleums—either made of pure granite or built with altars—surround the 90-square-meter structure where the two Aquino tombs lie.

It is almost bare of adornment, except for the tiled flooring, a stained glass mosaic showing a dove on its facade and carvings on the roof.

Lamberto Pena, park manager of Manila Memorial, said it was Cory’s choice to make the mausoleum simple.

He said the mausoleum was made only of cement and

that building something like it would cost less than half a million pesos.

Pena said remains of former ambassadors, government officials and showbiz personalities were also buried at the park.

“But what’s happening at Aquino’s mausoleum is an extraordinary scene,” he said.

All day Thursday, visitors streamed in undeterred by monsoon rains enhanced by the passing of Typhoon Kiko (international name: Morakot).

Abby Perez, a cashier in a bookstore in Tondo, Manila, came with her 4-year-old son to offer a small bouquet of white roses at Cory’s tomb, already smothered with orchids, sunflowers and stargazers.

“This is nothing compared to what she has done for all of us,”

she said.

Some mourners left open letters on the tomb. One letter read: “Dear Tita Cory, for you a very big applause! I am sure God is very pleased with what you did to your life and to ours. Love, Louise.”

Three women prayed the rosary while a flock of college students took pictures.

Park employee Melvin Montevirido said the influx of people was endless. “If a group leaves, another batch comes in,” he said.

Aquinos all in black

Noy and the four other Aquino children—Ballsy, Pinky, Viel and Kris—Thursday attended a novena officiated by Fr. Arisont Sison at Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Barangay West Triangle in Quezon City.

The Aquino siblings all wore black.

Some of those who attended

the Mass wore yellow shirts emblazoned with Aquino’s face and the words “Icon of Democracy” on the front.

In a speech after the Mass, Aquino’s grandson, Kiko Dee, thanked the residents for their outpouring of support for the family.

Cory’s Mass

Cory was known to occupy a pew at the back of the church during Masses on Saturday evening.

“The Saturday evening Mass was Cory’s Mass,” Sison said, referring to the late former President’s diligence in attending the Mass every weekend.

Flowers at the nearby Aquino residence on 25 Times Street have overflowed to the sidewalk and to neighboring gates.

Since Aquino’s death on Aug. 1, the formerly quiet home has been transformed into an alternative gathering place for mourners.

ers at the weekly Kapihan sa Senado forum.

She said Aquino could be the first to be proclaimed a national hero through legislation.

According to Cayetano, there is no legislation officially proclaiming any Filipino historical figure as a national hero.

At the very least, she said, laws were enacted and proclamations issued honoring Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio.

Rizal was “not explicitly proclaimed as a national hero,” Cayetano said in a statement issued by her office.

“The only other hero given implied recognition as a national hero is Andres Bonifacio, whose day of birth on Nov. 30 has been made a national holiday,” she said.

She added that only three of the 15 national holidays were “named after a singular historical figure: Rizal Day, Bonifacio Day and Ninoy Aquino Day.”

Bangko Sentral backs Cory-Ninoy P500 bill

By MICHELLE REMO, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, LEILA SALAVERRIA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippine central bank, is backing the proposal to have the P500 bill also bear a portrait of the late Corazon “Cory” Aquino.

The current P500 bill carries the portrait of the late Sen. Benigno “Noy” Aquino Jr., the husband of the former President, whose passing on Aug. 1 continues to be mourned nationwide.

The suggestion to include Cory Aquino’s portrait on the P500 bill was made to BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. by former Energy Secretary Vince Perez, according to an earlier report.

On Thursday, Tetangco told reporters that he had “asked the numismatic committee to consider the proposal to put up the portrait of former President Aquino on the P500 bill in designing our new-generation currency notes.”

The numismatic committee is composed of central bank officials led by BSP Deputy Gov-



Sketch of a proposed P500 bill bears the images of Ninoy Aquino and his wife, Cory. Emor Amando Suratos, the central bank thought it was time to issue new designs for the peso notes as many of these were too old.

“We are also improving the security features of the notes because we have to be a step ahead of counterfeitors,” Suratos was earlier quoted as saying.

The BSP had earlier announced that peso notes would soon have a different look.

Work to this end has started, and the release of the redesigned bills will be done one at a time starting next year.

According to BSP Deputy Gov-

ernor Amado Suratos, the central bank thought it was time to issue new designs for the peso notes as many of these were too old.

He was referring to the hundreds of thousands of people who escorted Aquino’s casket from Manila Cathedral to Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City in a nine-hour procession on Wednesday.

Earlier, two lawmakers in the House had filed separate resolutions declaring Aquino, the icon of the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution, a national hero.

Camarines Norte Rep. Liwayway Vinzons-Chato filed House Resolution No. 42 urging the

“We have seen how the people

responded to her. She is qualified to be a national hero,” Biazon said Thursday on the phone.

ern Philippines, the central Visayas islands and the southern Mindanao region since last month, killing at least 20 people.

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Ancient sea gypsies fight the Philippine current

By JOHN M. GLIONNA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES



A Badjao village sits atop coastal tidelands on the outskirts of Puerto Princesa, Philippines.



Johnny Aralaji, leader of a Badjao community in Puerto Princesa, Philippines, scans the sea for almost nonexistent schools of fish. The Badjao, an ancient seafaring community with origins in the Sulu Sea, are struggling to survive as fisheries diminish and alternative livelihoods are out of reach.

PUERTOPRINCESA, Philippines—The motley caravan of boats, their engines popping in staccato rhythm, head out to sea sounding like a platoon of lawn mowers.

Painted bright red, turquoise and orange, they carry a dozen men wearing baseball caps and T-shirts fashioned as turbans to block the equatorial sun.

Johnny Aralaji perches on the pointed bow of one of the craft, his sun-creased face frowning in concentration. He was born on a boat like this. His family wandered, allowing the currents to lead them.

"The life of the sea is hard," says Aralaji, wearing a shirt decorated with palm trees and hula girls. "It's dangerous."

Now gray-haired and past 70, Aralaji is among the Philippines' dwindling population of Badjao, or sea gypsies. Itinerant, often-illiterate Muslim fishermen, they've been known in this part of the world as the Bedouin of the sea.

Many cling to their traditional way of life: wandering the southern oceans on houseboats, following schools of fish and trying to outdistance danger.



Source: ESRI
Los Angeles Times

Locator map details Palawan, Philippines.

But the life of these seafaring nomads is drying up.

Proud and hardworking, they're threatened by soaring costs for fuel and repairs, killer typhoons, pirates, religious rebels and the steady disappearance of fish.

Most Badjao here no longer live on boats, instead taking up residence in thatch-roofed houses on bamboo stilts

on the island of Palawan, in the Philippines' southwest. But it seems they can't bear to be away from the water. Their communities extend 100 yards from the beach into the marshy coastal waters, connected by warrens of over-water pathways made of bamboo, wooden planks and overturned canoes.

They still go to sea in bancas, rickety craft with bamboo outrigging lashed together with wire and fishing line. They fashion their own hooks and lures. Small gas-powered motors and cell phones are their only modern conveniences.

On the water, times are tough. On land, they are worse.

Throughout the Philippines, more than 200,000 Badjao remain marginalized—shunned as uneducated and incorrigible.

Non-Badjao children throw coins into the water and laugh as the fishermen scramble from their boats to compete for the handouts. Badjao who abandoned life at sea have ended up as street beggars in big cities such as Manila.

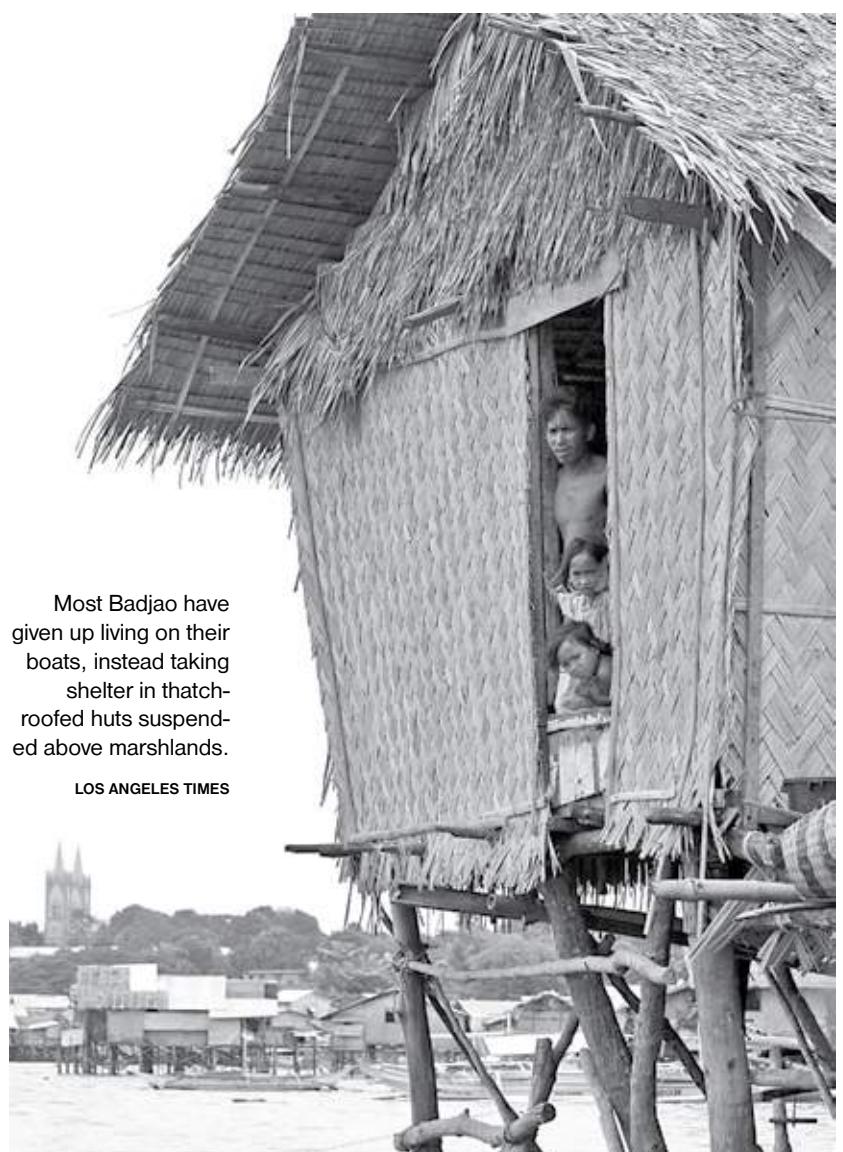
Some say the Badjao's years on the open water are numbered. Others believe the indigenous tribe that has peopled the Philippine seascapes for more than 1,000 years will go on.

"They're a quiet people—they don't care about politics. They just want to be left alone," says Rey Santiago, a senior archaeologist at the National Museum of the Philippines in Manila, who has studied the Badjao. "I think they will find a way to keep their lifestyle alive."

Aralaji, leader of a coastal community of 400 residents called Bagong Silang, is pragmatic about the future. He knows that many young Badjao must take second, often menial jobs on land to make ends meet.

Quiet, prone to brooding, the man who was born on the sea does not romanticize his people's lot. Neither do the younger Badjao.

"I don't want to be a fisherman,"



says Sonny Apsar, 29, a rail-thin father of five. "It no longer makes sense."

On this morning, the men's hopes are high. They have pooled \$80 to buy gas for six boats. When times are good, they travel four hours out to sea where the stone fish, grouper, whitefish and tuna are bigger and more plentiful.

A good catch brings \$20 for the en-



Badjao fishermen share a meal of fresh fish, rice and mashed cassava in the waters off Puerto Princesa.

See ANCIENT on next page

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Willie Revillame apologizes for Cory remark

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Controversial noontime TV show host Willie Revillame found himself in the hot seat again on Monday, beset by furious comments from bloggers and social networking websites. The reason: He objected, on air, to the insertion of a video of former President Corazon Aquino's cortège on his show, "Wowowee."

"It's the most insensitive thing I heard today," read a comment posted on Facebook. "Iba ka talaga Willie. Kakaibang paggalang kay Cory 'yan," said another.

"He should raise the issue behind the

scenes ... but I guess that's too much to ask [of someone] who hurts women, exploits poor people's stories ...," another Revillame detractor said.

On Tuesday, Revillame apologized to his viewers, to the Aquino family and to the network (ABS-CBN) management "for hurting their feelings." He added that his request to stop the inserted video was really "a sign of love and respect for Tita Cory."

"Salamat, President Cory," which aired on Monday, was the special coverage of the transfer of Aquino's remains from the La Salle Green Hills gym in Mandaluyong City to the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros.

The TV special was cut shortly after

the cortège reached the Ninoy Aquino Shrine in Makati City, to give way to the live telecast of "Wowowee." When the noontime show started airing, ABS-CBN inserted a portion of the Aquino cortège.

During the show's "Willie of Fortune" segment, Revillame said: "Di po maganda. Nagsasaya kami dito habang nagluluksa ang sambayanang Pilipino. 'Di ko magagampanan ang pagpapatawa habang ipinapakita ang libing ng dating presidente." ("It's not good for us to have fun here while the whole country grieves. I cannot make people laugh at the same time that this part of the funeral of our former president is being shown.")

When Revillame's reaction found

need to keep your money on deposit for a longer term to achieve a higher rate of return.

As "The Citibank Guide to Building Personal Wealth" (a book published by Citibank) says, "Inflation is a major risk if you hold large sums of cash permanently, because it reduces



Willie Revillame

its way to YouTube, it was met with a huge wave of negative reactions.

On Tuesday, Revillame explained: "Ang feeling ko hindi magandang ipinapakita 'yon habang kami'y nagsasaya. 'Wag kayong magagalit sa akin." He said he was willing to give way to the airing of the TV special, but that his bosses instructed him to do the show live.

Prior to asking to have the inserted video removed, Revillame said, he had made the same appeal to Entertainment Production head Linggit Tan during a commercial break: "When it was showed again, that's when I reacted."

Inquirer Entertainment tried to reach Tan for a reaction, but she declined to comment.

Editor's note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: What's the best way to save these days? I am expecting a big amount of money to come from the sale of a lot we've had in the family for a long time. With the global economic crisis affecting our economy, I want to play it safe yet grow my money.—Edwin

Answer: It's good that you are thinking of protecting your money (your capital) by investing the proceeds from the sale of your lot. Investing your money may make it grow over time.

Understand, though, that with investing comes risks and rewards. If you want your investment to grow and yield higher possible returns on your investment, be prepared to meet setbacks and losses if they happen. Investments that yield higher returns come with higher risks such as heavy losses, as what stock market investors have realized last year at the height of the global financial crisis. Investments that have low risks may more or less

safeguard your capital but give you low rewards as well (low interest income or minimal capital gains).

Bank deposits and government securities may offer you relatively safe investment options.

Bank deposits take the form of savings accounts, interest-bearing check-

need to keep your money on deposit for a longer term to achieve a higher rate of return.

As "The Citibank Guide to Building Personal Wealth" (a book published by Citibank) says, "Inflation is a major risk if you hold large sums of cash permanently, because it reduces

term, but these come with high risk, which you don't seem to want to assume at this time.

2. Bonds may also give you good rates of return, but these also come with some form of risk, although lower than that of stocks.

3. Pooled funds come in the form of

TAKE CHARGE

What's the safest way I can invest?

ing accounts, and time deposits. You deposit your cash in the bank and you get interest back after a month or so. While this may seem to be safe and will preserve your investment, this may not actually be the case as inflation may eat into your investment.

The current rate for savings accounts, for instance, is about 0.75 percent per annum. The inflation rate is way higher than that, which means that the growth to be yielded by your investment in a savings account will be overtaken by the rise in prices of commodities.

Time deposits may give better rates, but still may not be enough to match the cost of inflation. You may

the buying power of cash." Put simply, inflation may erode the value of your investments over time.

We mentioned government securities above. These come in the form of treasury bills, treasury notes, and treasury bonds. Bills have the shorter term (less than a year), and bonds have the longest term. Government securities are generally low risk since the government guarantees to meet its obligations and pay the published interest rate.

But since you mentioned that you want to grow your money, it may be wise to look into other forms of investment as well to achieve your goals:

1. Stocks or equities may give you high possible returns over the long

mutual funds or unit investment trust funds (UITFs) and depending on their nature may be invested in stocks alone, bonds alone, money market funds (government securities and commercial papers), or a combination of these.

To keep your money safe and make it grow at the same time, we advise that you do what wise investors have been doing all along: Diversify! Keep some funds in bank deposits, some in government securities, and some in pooled funds. Since you may have other financial goals and may have a timetable in needing your funds later on (example, for retirement), we advise that you consult a financial professional who will assess your risk

profile and suggest the best possible allocation of your investments.

You may also invest your money in tangible assets such as real estate property. However, market values fluctuate over time, so be prepared for any eventuality. Investing in a business also comes with a high risk as not all businesses realize income. Jewelry and art are also forms of investment, but bear in mind that it may take a while for their value to increase. Converting them to cash may also take a longer time should you find the need to do so.

Whatever investments you go into, study all aspects thoroughly. Look into the pros and cons before deciding. We wish you the best.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

ANCIENT

From Page 14

rents of the Sulu and South China seas. Tradition has it that a Badjao fisherman, simply by dipping his hand in the water, can judge a current's direction and strength and the time it will take to reach his destination.

The best can sail at night on instinct and are expert free-divers, holding their breath for long periods as they plunge for pearls. They bury their dead in sailboats so the body can navigate to the afterworld.

Bluejeaned and barefoot, Apsar says he has heard the elders' tales. But he has modern problems. At 15, his parents arranged for him to marry a girl a year his junior. He never had time to get an education, and now he cannot read or even write his name.

A grandfather was killed by pirates off the island of Mindanao, and the family never found his body. Months ago, with his 12-year-old daughter in need of eye surgery, Apsar had to sell his prized 16-foot boat to a relative for far less than it was worth.

Now on the water in a borrowed 24-footer, he spots the sleek aqua



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Badjao villagers in Palawan, Philippines, prep their boats for a day of fishing.

craft being piloted by an uncle.

"I'm very in love with that boat," he says wistfully. "If I had the money, I'd buy it back."

He's been forced to work as a scooter-taxi driver and sell handmade trinkets to tourists. He relies on friends and family to lend him vessels.

He wants to buy a tour boat and take people on dolphin-watching excursions; one half-day trip can yield a fisherman's monthly pay.

"My dream is that my children do not have to fish like me," he says. "That is why I work so hard."

The men kill their motors in 90-foot waters. Using spools, they unravel fishing lines fitted with 300 hooks and wait. If they hook a big fish, two men pull the line with their hands. A long battle leaves their palms bloody. But on this day, the catch is disappointing.

At midday, the boats gather for mealtime. The younger men lash the smaller



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Johnny Aralaji heads out in the early morning to catch fish.

vessels together end to end. Apsar reaches into the ice cooler to select the best fish.

He slow-cooks them on a charcoal grill, using a bolo knife to cut off the heads for soup. Squatting in a circle, the men use their bare hands to break apart the blackened fish and scoop up rice and white sweet potato.

"A big restaurant," Apsar says, smiling, as he reads a text message from his wife on his cell phone.

Soon the dishes and pots have been

washed in the sea and stowed. Apsar heads for home, where the women and children will gather atop the bamboo dock, eager to inspect the catch.

Near shore, as Aralaji barks orders in his native Samar dialect, Apsar spots a tour boat headed out to sea. His eyes follow the vessel enviously.

"Whatever it takes, I am going to take my family away from this life," he says quietly. "I don't want this for my children."

Maharlika – Opinyon

By way of goodbye

It was a miracle.

That was what Cory told me last February, shortly after Valentine's Day, when she came to my mother's wake. She came one early afternoon without fanfare, without any sirens blaring to announce her arrival. She slipped into the chapel quietly, where I met her, and she spent a few moments standing before the urn that held my mother's ashes, praying. I will always remember that scene. I will always be grateful for it.

She looked good. You couldn't believe that only a year before, she was in the embrace of a disease that was not known to let go. It was a miracle it did, she said, when she had settled into a pew. It was a miracle she was there.

She herself did not expect anything of the kind. Unbeknownst to the public, she said, her colon wasn't her biggest problem. When her cancer was detected, it had already spread to her liver. Her doctors cut up a portion of it to prevent the disease from spreading. Though they gave hope, they were themselves not too hopeful. They gave her a few months to live.

She lived longer than that. Much, much longer than that.

A year later, there she was attending other people's wakes. A year later, there she was, restored to health.

Since early last year, she said, her life had become a bonus. She thought she would go not long after that, and had been prepared

to—"handa na ako." She had lived a full life, she had lived a fulfilled life. And she had lived a life that was offered to God, that yielded to the will of God. Heaven had decreed her life, heaven would decree her death. That she was still alive, that was the will of heaven. The doctors' skills notwithstanding, she would not be there but for the grace of God.

That was when I glimpsed the true miracle.

Cory has been compared to Joan of Arc, and it is true and not true at the same time. Both were "walang alam," Joan being a peasant's daughter and Cory a housewife, who went on to shake the world. Both saw themselves as instruments of God and carried out epic achievements on earth with their unshakeable conviction of heaven. The difference is that Joan heard God's voice in her head while Cory heard God's voice only in her heart.

That is no mean difference. I myself have always been a little distrustful of people who hear God saying things to them. That has produced a lot of dead bodies, which is the bane of religion. The Spanish Inquisitors heard God talking to them, ordering them specifically to torture to death those who deviated from what they said God told the world to believe. William McKinley, too, heard God talking to him, ordering him specifically to seize the colonies owned by another country, Spain, which also believed God spoke to it, as a matter of manifest destiny. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, too, said God talked to her, ordering her to seize the presidency and hold on to it until further divine (God's) or human (America's) notice.

It's true. You talk to God, you are pious. God talks to you, you are delusional. Or, God talks to you, you forge chains. You talk to God, you break free.

I never knew Cory all that well, but for all that I never heard her say in public or private that God spoke to her. All she said was that in her hour of doubt and uncertainty, in her hour of adversity and discouragement, in her hour of wavering and indecision, she always turned to prayer. She always turned to heaven for guidance. The pious will say that in those moments God truly spoke to her, though in mysterious ways, in the language of sign and symbols. The less

pious will say that in those moments she merely plumbed the depths of her soul and found the truth in her heart, things we are all capable of doing as human beings, but which somehow only the more unflinching and courageous among us do.

I never heard Cory say she followed the marching orders of God. But her life at least, if not her words, is a testament to the faith she reposed her faith in. The way she comported herself in the face of power, showing the world the humility of power and the power of humility. The way she comforted herself in the face of oppression, discovering at the end of it the wounds of others and not just of self, the need to find justice for Ninoy, justice for all. The way she proved in life that the meek shall inherit the earth, and in death that, as Dylan Thomas said, death shall have no dominion.

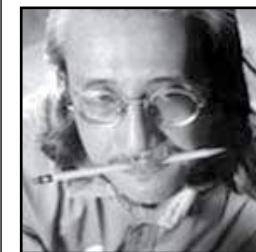
Cory lived only five more months after we spoke. But so only in one sense, and probably in the scheme of things, a minor one. In the grand sense, she has lived longer than that. Much, much longer than that.

The explosion of tears and the shedding of praises for her these past days are proof of it. One is tempted to say that her spirit will live on long after the last trace of her body has disappeared, that her specter will continue to hover upon this land like a shadow. But it is more than that. It is that she will be a living presence among us. It is that she will be present among us.

Some lives are like that. They do not die. They do not die in ways that go beyond their thoughts continuing to influence people, their example continuing to inspire people, their memory continuing to cling to the minds of kin and friends. They do not die in ways not unlike those who are visited daily in their resting places by those who loved them indelibly deeply, who are kept company, who are caressed with words. They do not die because they remain a throbbing reality. They do not die because the detonation of the gigantic solidity of their lives scatters their atoms into the interstices of space, filling it, suffusing it, making themselves part of it. They do not die because they are, in every sense, still there.

Cory is one of them. What can one say?

It is a miracle.



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

In praise of the ordinary human

Tita Cory, the reluctant plain housewife head of the Yellow Brigade that toppled the autocratic rule of Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, was interred beside her assassinated husband Benigno *Ninoy* Aquino this week.

Fanfare attended her gracious exit in life even as we recall the fanfare that preceded the ascension of this ordinary housewife into the pantheon of Philippine heroes. She took her ordinariness and common sense, and stuck it into the annals of macho Philippine history. Philippine patriarchy found it difficult to countenance the light feminine touch.

Colonial Filipinos, both male and female, would not let her be ordinary. Like all denizens of the civilization of empire of Spain, America and Japan, who have become addicted to the eternal longing for and the ever present promise of a Savior, they wanted her to play a messianic role, but she defied the expectations of the horde who were waiting for a Joan d'Arc. Instead, she kept her *mahjong* sisterhood intact, and continued the practicality of the kitchen and the family sala in the affairs of the State.

One male columnist had the temerity to write that at the height of the fly-bys of the impatient and flamboyant flyboys of the Philippine Air Force, in one of the attempted putsches during her administration, she allegedly took refuge under covers in one of the *Malacañang* Palace royal beds, on the mistaken notion that if a trigger happy airman unloaded one of the Uncle Sam-provided incendiaries, she would be safe. The columnist would suffer greatly for that libelous assertion, but from a distance, one wonders what people considered as nonsensical, if not cowardly, about the act.

In fact, isn't that what one would normally do under the circumstances, if only to show that one can act with grace under pressure? Isn't that what one would do to allay the natural fear that comes when threatened with the specter of possible intrusive violence?

The ordinary housewife acted in an ordinary fashion, and macho Filipino resented her for being commonly human. When it was time for her to relinquish the reigns of power, did she not show everyone how to smoothly transfer the pomp of the office?

The legacy of the diminutive *Time Magazine*'s Woman of the Year and Nobel Prize laureate nominee shall continue for as long as there are ordinary people who dare take their common humanity to fuel their choices, and turn ordinary hearts into wells of compassion, their common minds into treasures of wisdom, their natural body and soul into feasts of great celebrations.

Ninoy's face graces Philippine currency notes, befitting a martyr. But echoes of Cory Aquino's ordinary choices are found among *Pinoys* in the shores of Saipan and the evening joints of Japan, among the sheiks of Kuwait and the living rooms of Kowloon, along the Niger and the Congo to the ORs of Manhattan and the Bay. Cory is gone; but there is no mistaking—long live the plain ordinary Cory!

Cory's Yellow People's Army

The sovereign people took over the streets of the national capital to pay tribute to the departed President Corazon Aquino. Her flag-draped remains plowed through a human sea of grieving multitudes while she was being transferred from De La Salle Green Hills to the Manila Cathedral Monday.

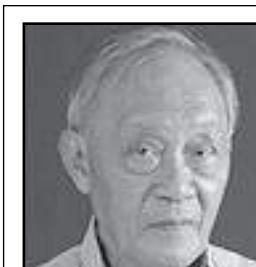
The route to the cathedral was lined by a wall of people from all walks of life, which was reminiscent of the massive crowd that gathered in the People Power Revolution of 1986 that swept out the Marcos dictatorship. It was Cory Aquino's army that materialized en masse again in the streets on Monday—this time to demonstrate their deep affection for her instead of to overthrow a hated and corrupt dictatorship.

Cory's Yellow People's Army turned out in the streets, responding only to her summons and not to anyone else's. They came out without state sponsorship, after the Aquino family rebuffed an offer of the widely-reviled Arroyo government to give Cory a state funeral.

The people, the mass constituency of Cory, took their cue from the Aquino family's disdain for pompous state-sponsored funeral rites, and went out to the streets to render her a people's funeral and gathered by the thousands at the wake at De La Salle and the Manila Cathedral. It was the people's way of manifesting their revulsion towards the Arroyo administration's machinations to revise the Constitution and bend the rules to allow the President to cling to power beyond the term defined by the 1987 Constitution, which was the handiwork and legacy of Cory's restoration of Philippine democracy.

The People Power that reappeared in the streets since Cory's death on Saturday and up until yesterday evening at the Manila Cathedral before her funeral was composed of a multi-class constituency that formed the critical mass of the EDSA movement in 1986. They came from the peak of the social triangle (the rich of Forbes Park and other enclaves of the wealthy), the middle class and the poorer classes in the slums and shanties of the urban poor of Metro Manila. This was the Yellow Army that confronted the armored vehicles and tanks of the Marcos regime as they made their way to EDSA (Epi-fanio delos Santos Avenue) to crush the military-civilian rebellion that took a defiant stand at Camp Crame in February 1986.

The only significant social group that was left out in People Power I was the Left and that was because they took the arrogant position that they won't have anything to do with a middle-class led movement since the only revolution worth the name was the proletarian and workers' revolution fought in the paddies and the streets drenched in blood. The Left, which did not think much of Cory because she was a daughter of a wealthy landed-class, paid heavily in political terms for their abstention



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

from the People Power movement. They were marginalized from any power sharing with the middle and upper classes after the downfall of the Marcos dictatorship. And now the hard-core Left is withering away in exile in The Netherlands, after their EDSA blunder.

The people who joined the odyssey at EDSA went there without any prompting from the authorities. In fact, they gathered there in defiance of the military power of the Marcos regime, believing that it was time for the dictatorship to go. They stood up to be counted and risked their lives to open the gates for the restoration of democracy.

Cory Aquino was the personification of the people's aspiration for liberty and a credible handmaiden of the movement to topple the Marcos dictatorship. At EDSA the people were united in purpose and aspirations behind a leader they believed in and trusted with firm conviction.

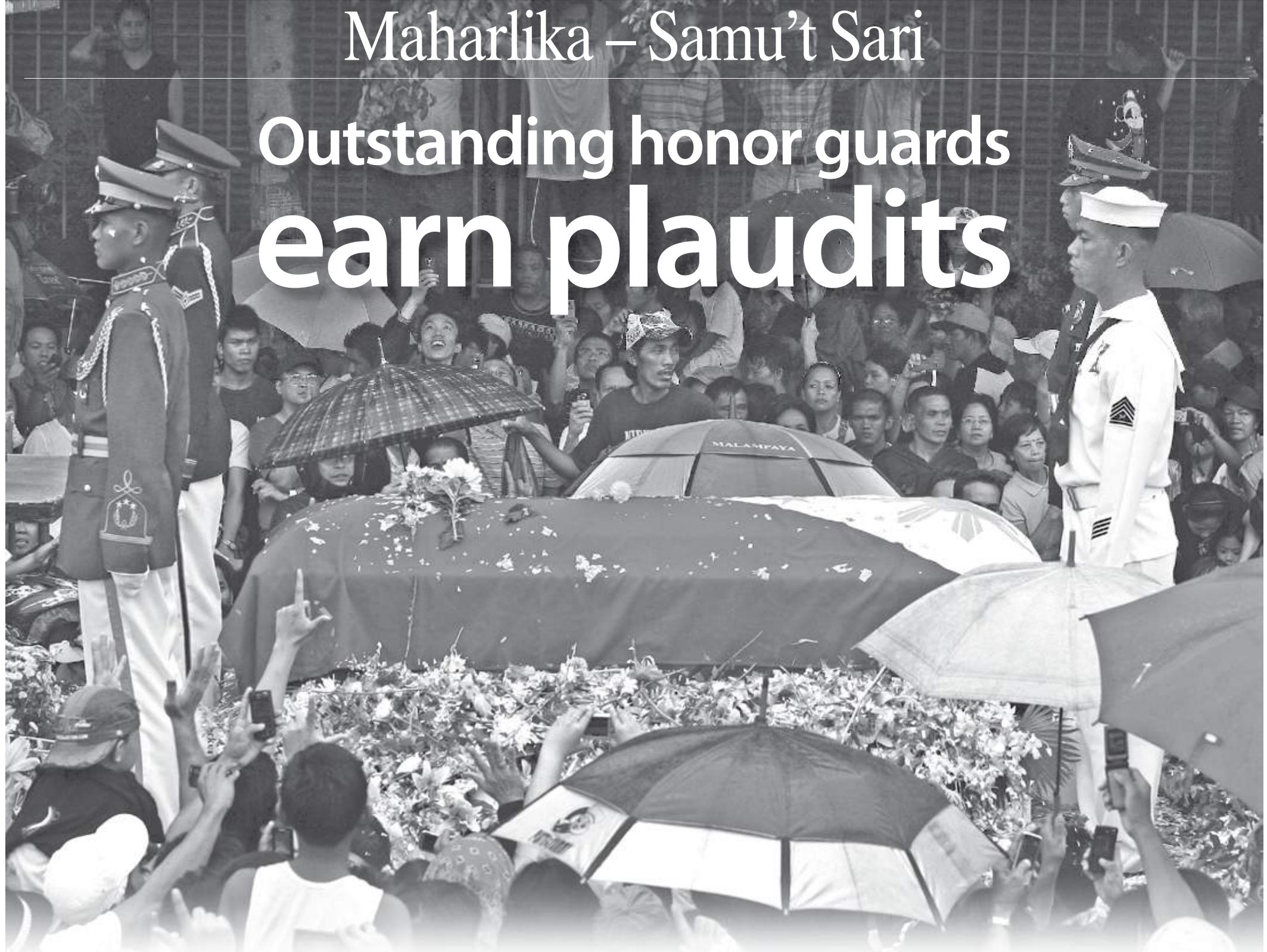
The amalgamation of social classes behind Cory Aquino gave a massive show of force at the Luneta when about two million people responded to Cory Aquino's call for a boycott of the businesses owned by cronies of Ferdinand Marcos after the latter was proclaimed winner of the Feb. 7, 1986 snap election by the rubber-stamp National Assembly in the face of overwhelming circumstantial evidence that he had rigged the result. The mammoth rally at Luneta was the catalyst of the People Power movement. It demonstrated Cory's drawing power among the people and the existence of the vast constituency of her Yellow Army that only she could summon in protest or to honor her memory in death.

After that rally, Philip Habib, the special envoy US President Ronald Reagan sent to Manila to offer a power-sharing formula between Marcos and Cory, left in a huff, convinced that the crisis had reached a boiling point after Cory rejected the deal. Hours after Habib's departure, the Enrile-Ramos military mutiny broke out in Camp Aguinaldo, triggering the People Power Revolution that mobilized the people behind Cory as its rallying symbol and Jaime Cardinal Sin as its spiritual patron.

The social mixture of people who shuffled patiently in the human stream that poured into the wake at Greenhills and the Manila Cathedral is a reincarnation of the Yellow Army that was the backbone of Cory Aquino's campaign to end the dictatorship. It is a constituency that still has strong undercurrents. Its silent tribute to Cory manifests a strong public clamor for a political leadership that exemplifies decency and honesty in public service. Most of all, the Yellow Army calls attention to the need to make the democracy restored by Cory Aquino work, especially with regard to the observance of constitutional term limits.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

Outstanding honor guards earn plaudits



Filipinos look as the casket of the late former Philippines President Corazon Aquino passes by in suburban Manila, Philippines on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009.

AP

MANILA, Philippines—Wiggling their toes and clenching their fists, plus the cooling relief of the salty-sweet rain, helped them endure almost nine hours standing at attention on the slow-moving, flower-decked truck that bore the casket of former President Corazon Aquino.

But what really kept them on their feet, they said, was simply the pride of being that close to the beloved leader on her final journey. There was a place of honor coveted by the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who joined the historic 22-km funeral march on Wednesday.

Private First Class Antonio Cadiente, Airman 2nd Class Gener Laguindam, Petty Officer 3 Edgardo Rodriguez and Police Officer 1 Danilo Maalab Jr. Thursday shared with reporters how they endured—and savored—what were clearly the most memorable hours of their careers.

After having had ample sleep the night before and a simple breakfast ranging from lugaw (porridge) and boiled eggs to junk food and coffee, the four members of the honor guard climbed onto the truck that morning knowing it was going to be a long day.

Praying for rain

“It was tough standing there for hours but seeing the thousands of people wanting to get near the former President’s coffin, I felt that I was privileged to be standing so close to her,” said the soft-spoken Cadiente, who represented the Army.

When his limbs started to feel numb, he would do subtle exercises by tightening his fists and wiggling his toes for relief, Cadiente told the Inquirer.

Rodriguez, the escort from the Navy, said he started to feel warm and uncomfortable when the march, which started at around 11 p.m. at Manila Cathedral, reached Quirino Avenue.

He recalled “praying for some rain” at that point—and it did. “It felt so good. I also tasted it to quench my thirst,” he added.

“It tasted salty,” said Laguindam, the Air Force guard, drawing laughter from reporters at Camp Aguinaldo, general headquarters of the military.

It's my tribute'

In an earlier interview on Wednesday night, shortly after he got off the truck at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City, Rodriguez summed up how he felt: “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience for anybody in the service. I’m glad I was given the chance to do it.”

Rodriguez, 37, said he immediately sent out text messages to his family and relatives the moment he got the assignment.

“In my mind, I knew I could make it because what I did was a noble thing. It’s not a simple duty. It’s my tribute to the former president,” said the petty officer.

who joined the Navy 17 years ago.

The nine-hour service was, by far, the longest to be rendered nonstop by any individual honor guard in recent history, according to Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

“They represent the best in soldierly. They showed a soldier’s discipline and determination,” Brawner added.

Cadiente was not even a year old when Aquino, widow of the martyred Sen. Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr., inspired the EDSA People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

Feet ‘nailed’ to truck

Standing guard next to Aquino’s flag-draped casket all the way to the cemetery, Cadiente said, was his way of thanking the late president.

Laguindam said it only occurred to him that he had just played a special role in history when he stepped down from the flatbed truck, his joints and back aching like hell, past 8 p.m. Wednesday.

It was “an experience of a lifetime,” though his feet felt like they had been nailed to the truck, the 24-year-old Laguindam said.

Later in a separate interview in Camp Crame, Maalab said he only had one thing in mind while standing for hours

on the truck: He was honoring Aquino on behalf of the Philippine National Police.

“My body is still fit (for the job) because I just finished the public safety basic recruit course,” Maalab said.

“I feel proud to have served the former President like that. I played a part in history which I could tell my children and future grandchildren,” Rodriguez said at Thursday’s press conference.

Rodriguez said he also could not believe he lasted that long on his feet, considering that his daily tasks mostly involved paper work.

Still looking snappy

Perhaps jogging on Tuesdays and Thursdays gave him the stamina for the task, said Rodriguez, who is assigned at the Navy’s Reservist and Reserve Force Development office.

The Navy, which actually has no honor guard unit, picked Rodriguez because of his height (5’8”) and strong build, according to Brawner.

As members of the honor guard, an elite unit, they are trained to stand motionless for hours and still look snappy, said Cadiente.

Asked if they felt an urge to answer the call of nature while on the truck, all four of them said they did not feel such discomfort.

“I drew my strength from the crowd

who did not mind getting drenched in the rain just to send off the former president,” said Rodriguez.

When Maalab and Rodriguez finally got off the truck, policemen posted at the cemetery pointed them to the nearest Portalet. Laguindam and Cadiente headed for their service bus where a packed dinner awaited them.

The AFP and the PNP Thursday said the four and the other members of the honor guard who kept vigil during Aquino’s wake will receive medals and commendations from their respective commanders.

Cadiente, Laguindam, Rodriguez and Maalab also reaped praise at the Senate.

Sen. Pia Cayetano Thursday said she would file a resolution commanding them for a job well done.

“It may be a simple job but I challenge anyone to try to stand for hours,” Cayetano told reporters at the weekly Kapihan sa Senado forum. “They did not speak, they did not call attention to themselves, but what they did caught people’s attention.”

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a retired Marine general who served as AFP chief of staff under the Aquino administration, said the four guards deserved to be awarded a military commendation medal, the lowest individual achievement award in the service.

“It’s very hard to just stand still,” Biazon said in a phone interview. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Young Style

How to take a room from toddler to teen

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Soon parents everywhere will start gearing up for a new school year: plotting schedules, reorganizing desks and going through drawers and closets to remove items their children no longer use. In some cases, parents may find that it's not only clothes their children have outgrown, it's their bedroom, too.

Pastels, primary colors, firetrucks and fairy princesses: all sensible choices for a baby or toddler's room but not so cool for a tween or teen. Unfortunately, a makeover every few years isn't budget-friendly. Nor is it practical, says designer Annie Elliott, of Washington.

"If you're running around with kids, you're not going to have the energy to update their rooms," she says. "You're just going to be too exhausted to want to deal with it."

Sound familiar? There are some simple steps for taking the design of your child's space from toddler to teen without spending too much of your time or money.

Avoid Themes

"Themes can be very, very cute, but it makes it very hard to transition later," says Christiane Lemieux, founder and creative director of DwellStudio, a home furnishings company. "You're going to have to eventually redo it. Avoiding themes is going to save you money in the long run."

So, forget the wall-stenciled soccer balls and the bunny rabbit area rug. Make



THE WASHINGTON POST
Siblings Brooke and Jack Merz each chose the color of one wall in their shared bedroom in Washington.

less of a long-term design commitment by incorporating your child's interests and hobbies with accessories.

"Have a motorcycle on the dresser or on artwork or pillows instead of on the rug or textiles," suggests Lily Kanter, chief executive and co-founder of Serena & Lily, a baby bedding and furniture company. If your child loves ballerinas, Kanter suggests putting a tutu into a shadow box and hanging it as artwork. For a baseball look, find vintage baseball cards on eBay to frame and hang on a wall.

"Themes are so hard to resist, especially if you're a first-time parent," says Elliott. "But I think you should carry out themes on

things that are easy to change, like bedding, lampshades and inexpensive curtains."

She also recommends hanging a piece of original art. Nothing expensive, she says, perhaps something found on Etsy (www.etsy.com) or at a flea market that doesn't have a kid's theme. "As the child grows, the piece doesn't go out of context and the child can get a different appreciation of it as he or she gets older," she says.

When Sally Aman, of Washington, redid her 5-year-old daughter's room, she took into account the preferences of Aman Aine, now 6, (lots of pink) but with the help of designer Sally Steponkus chose a sophisticated and timeless look.

"I didn't want to spend a lot of money having to redo the room over the years," she says. Aman mixed pink walls with an heirloom bed, an upholstered chair and a desk that doubles as a vanity, so her daughter "has a place to put all her lip glosses."

When siblings share, carve out some solo space

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Decorating a child's bedroom should be fun, but decorating a bedroom that siblings share can be a challenge.

"When kids share a room, the more personal space each child has, the better," Washington designer Annie Elliott advises. Elliott has firsthand experience: Her twin girls Ruthie and Georgie, 5, share a bedroom.

Recently, she helped client Jennifer Fiore set up a room for daughter Brooke, 5, and

To personalize the space, Aman had the bed linens monogrammed. "She's so proud of her room," Aman says. "She'll show someone her room and say, 'These are my initials.' It gives her ownership."

Learn to Compromise

Believe it or not, there is a happy medium between what a child likes and what a parent wants. "It's probably less about compromise and more about limiting where they can go 100 percent," Elliott says.

Mia Worrell, of Arlington, Va., says her goal when redoing her 5-year-old daughter's bedroom was to find a balance between what works with the rest of the house and what makes young Vivienne happy.

Vivi's wish list was short but definitely sweet: a pink room with princesses and flowers. Rather than painting the walls pink, Worrell, who co-owns Timoth Paul Bedding and Home in Washington, had floor-length curtains made with a graphic pink-flowered fabric. This way, Vivi "gets her pink, she gets her flowers, but it's not a big flower stencil on the wall and it's not a pink



THE WASHINGTON POST
Bambinis by Mel Lim wall decals, left, can be used instead of spending time and money on hard-to-remove wallpaper or wall stencils. Right, Storagepaloza bins can be placed side by side for easy access when a child is small, then stacked to save on floor space as a child grows.

wall," says Worrell.

"I would not want to walk into a room every day that's pink. I would tire of that more quickly," she says. "This is something we can both be happy about."

As for the princesses, a coat rack stands in the

room and holds all of Vivi's princess apparel, like a piece of decorative art.

Invest in Furniture, Storage

Rather than buying furniture that will be tossed when your child gets older, spend now on quality pieces that will last into the teen years and beyond. Once the child has grown, well-made furniture can always be re-covered, refinished or used elsewhere in the house.

For her son Holden's room, Worrell paired a wool area rug, a nice wood dresser and a custom shelving unit with an inexpensive toddler bed from Ikea, which will be replaced with a regular-size bed as soon as Holden, 2, is old enough.

Spending on shelving (even splurging on built-ins) is worth the investment, says Elliott. "They will go from diapers to toys to books to



THE WASHINGTON POST
Bambinis by Mel Lim wall decals, left, can be used instead of spending time and money on hard-to-remove wallpaper or wall stencils. Right, Storagepaloza bins can be placed side by side for easy access when a child is small, then stacked to save on floor space as a child grows.

If there isn't enough space for separate dressers, give them separate drawers.

Hang a canopy over each bed to create a private space.

Consider a loft bed for an older child; it creates a room within a room below the mattress. Ikea's Tromso loft bed (from \$199) is a good example.

Don't expect the children to share everything. Siblings are expected to co-own games, DVDs, etc. Their bedroom should be a place where they can have some things that are all their own.

aquariums, whatever the child is into," she says.

And when it comes to other storage options, "Elfa is, bar none, the best use of closet organization," says Nicole Anzia, founder of Neatnik, a professional organizing business based in Washington.

"When children start to dress themselves you can put the rods low so they can reach them ... you can switch out rods and shelves, add on rods and bins."

Opting for adult area rugs, Flor carpet tiles or wall-to-wall carpeting instead of kid-themed area rugs are smart choices, too, Elliott says. "If you spend the money upfront, you'll end up having to spend less money down the road."

Choose Bold Paint

"Nothing makes a room look



THE WASHINGTON POST
Aman Aine Porter, 6, of Washington, has a classic look for her pink bedroom, which features monogrammed bedding. "I didn't want to spend a lot of money having to redo the room over the years," her mother says.

gender-neutral color.

Don't forget about the ceiling, she says. "Putting stripes across the ceiling is really easy and will make your kid's room look decorated in a second. It really makes a great visual impact."

Great pieces to grow with kids

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

■ Bankable bookcase, \$219 at Land of Nod

Redoing your child's room? Here are some picks from the pros. For more items, go to www.washingtonpost.com/home.

■ Cubitec shelving, from \$245 at Design Within Reach

"Shelves are worth spending

money on, and Design Within

Reach's Cubitec is a great

investment," says Washington

designer Annie Elliott. It is well-

priced, lightweight and has no

sharp edges or corners.

■ Bambinis by Mel Lim wall

decals, \$24 from Blik Surface

Graphics

Instead of spending time and

money on hard-to-remove wall-

paper or wall stencils, use decal-

s. Easy to put on and easy to take

off, they can help incorporate a

child's hobby into a room without

a big design commitment.

■ Hyde bench, from \$899 at

Serena & Lily

Perfect at the foot of the bed,

an upholstered storage bench or

ottoman can hold clothes, blan-

kets or toys and do double duty

as extra seating and a place to

put on shoes in the morning.

■ Confetti Decoboxes, from

\$6.99 at Container Store

Cute and colorful, these boxes

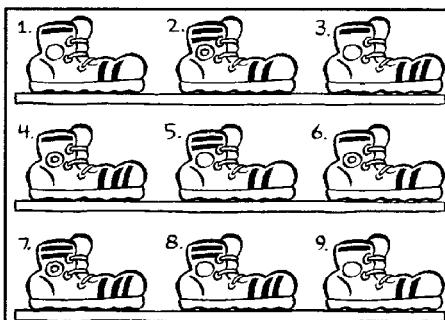
can transition from holding lit-

tle toys to school supplies. They

would work well high on a tod-

ler's bookshelf and later on the

desk of a tween or teen.



WHICH TWO SNEAKERS ARE THE SAME?
You have 30 seconds to slam-dunk this one!

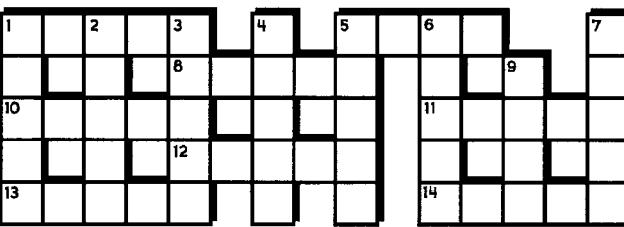
Answer: Sneakers 1 and 9.

LET'S BEHEAD A WORD! When you behead a word, you drop the first letter of the word. The following clues should help you find the starting three-letter word: Behead a beast, and you will find A larger beast is left behind. Behead this larger beast and then Instead of one, you'll find I'm ten.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

Answers: Tareed, wattle, upswEEP, arisHIp, dimpled, cardied.

Illustrated by David Coulson



Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 16 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy!

APED CADRE GNATS
ASHEN CHAMP LABOR
AUDIO DELTA NEATH
BALER EARTH RADIO
BIPED GALE TEMPT
CABIN

6. Libber, 7. Audi, 8. Aped, 9. Cabin, 10. Baler, 11. Bped, 12. Cabi, 13. Neath, 14. Radi, 15. Gnat, 16. Liber, 17. Audi, 18. Aped, 19. Cabin, 20. Baler, 21. Neath, 22. Radi, 23. Gnat, 24. Radi, 25. Gnat.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American humorist, writer and television host Sam Levenson who related the following remembrance: "It was on my fifth birthday that Papa put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'Remember, my son, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm.'"

■ The Associated Press recently reported on a kind act gone terribly awry. An Israeli woman surprised her mother by having her old mattress hauled away and replacing it with a brand-new one. When the mother returned home and discovered what had happened, she was terribly distraught. It seems the woman had been hiding money in the old mattress for years—about \$1 million.

■ According to a survey conducted in 2008, 15 percent of American men spend more than an hour in the bathroom every day. Unsurprisingly, the number of women who spend that long in the bathroom is much higher, at 38 percent.

■ It's been reported that whenever he traveled, French philosopher, mathematician, scientist and writer René Descartes brought with him a doll named after his daughter, Francine.

■ The most common surname in the United States is Smith, followed, in order, by Johnson, Williams and Jones.

■ A man in Sandusky, Ohio, evidently had a rat problem in his home—and had a novel way of dealing with it. It seems that whenever he saw—or thought he saw—a rat, he would shoot it. This method didn't always work the way he planned, however. He once shot himself in the foot. On another occasion, he mistook his wife's hat for one of the pesky rodents and shot it. Unfortunately, the hat was on her head at the time, and the man was charged with negligent assault.

■ ■ ■

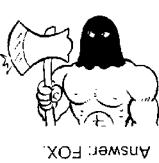
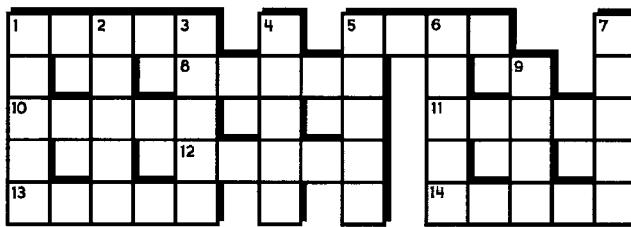
Thought for the Day: "Almost all our faults are more pardonable than the methods we resort to to hide them."—François de La Rochefoucauld

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A FILL-IN PUZZLE!



Answer: FOX

Pictured above is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the 16 words that you'll need to complete the puzzle using the trial-and-error method. Keep an eraser handy!

APED CADRE GNATS
ASHEN CHAMP LABOR
AUDIO DELTA NEATH
BALER EARTH RADIO
BIPED GALE TEMPT
CABIN

6. Libber, 7. Audi, 8. Aped, 9. Cabin, 10. Baler, 11. Bped, 12. Cabi, 13. Neath, 14. Radi, 15. Gnat, 16. Liber, 17. Audi, 18. Aped, 19. Cabin, 20. Baler, 21. Neath, 22. Radi, 23. Gnat.

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MAGIC MAZE ● ONCE THE WORLD'S LARGEST CITY

T U R O L I D E B Y V A S Q N
K H E B Y W T A R O V L J G E
B Y W U R J P N D O K I G D B
Z X V G K E S Q D H B O M K K
I N G E N R G R C A G A S Y U
W U O S Q I O A B P N A E P R
E L J D H C J Y H F E A B A U
C M A Y N H L I W T X S E R D
V U O Y K O T S E E R R H I A
Q P N R N M L L U B N A T S I
K J H F E C B Z Y X V L C U X

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Monday's unlisted clue hint: CAPITAL OF IRAQ

Babylon Istanbul New York Tokyo
Beijing Jericho Paris Uruk
Carthage Larsa Rome Xiadu
Cordova London Thebes

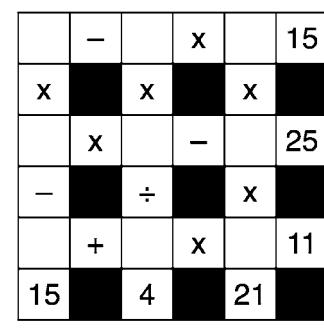
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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

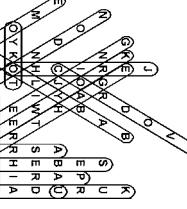
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!



1 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

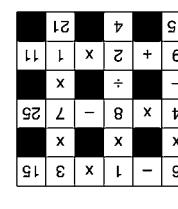
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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



ONCE THE WORLD'S
LARGEST CITY

GO FIGURE ANSWER



Dog Grooming 101

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Like everyone else, I'm trying to save money these days, and so I want to cut back on the number of trips my Cocker Spaniel "Jake" takes to the groomer. I take him once a week now. Do you have any grooming tips?—Sally in Pittsburgh

DEAR SALLY: Taking on some grooming tasks yourself can save quite a bit of money and can even make you more aware of Jake's health. Regular grooming will make you familiar with his coat and skin, and you'll notice changes that a groomer might miss.

Here are some general grooming instructions to follow:

■ Brush your dog's coat regularly: Long-haired breeds should be brushed out daily to prevent matting; medium- and short-haired dogs can be brushed weekly.

■ Check your dog's ears each time he's brushed, particularly if he has long, floppy ears. Look for debris in the outer ear and note if the ears have any odor, signaling possible yeast or bacterial infection (consult the vet if you notice an odor). Gently sweep dirt or other debris away from the ear canal using a clean cloth soaked in mineral oil.

■ Discharge at the corners of a dog's eyes can be gently wiped away using a cotton ball soaked in cool water.

■ Brush your dog's teeth regularly—daily, if possible. Use only toothbrushing gear designed for dogs: A special finger brush and flavored toothpaste are



available at the vet's or the pet store.

■ A weekly bath is fine for most dogs. Don't use human shampoos; use shampoo specifically formulated for dogs.

■ Nails should be trimmed once a month—a trying task for dogs and owners, sometimes. If you want to try it yourself, have the groomer show you how to safely trim Jake's nails.

Just these basic grooming steps will keep Jake looking good between visits to the professional groomer. More tips are available from the American Kennel Club at www.akc.org/public_education/grooming.cfm.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Dog days of summer canine care

Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



3. In the car, dogs should never hang their heads out of open windows. Always keep your dog in the back seat or back area of vehicle to avoid danger of inflated airbags in the front seat.

Extra tip: For teens who wish to start a dog-walking job this summer, start as a volunteer and walk dogs of neighbors who would appreciate the service. Remember to stay alert at all times. Avoid wearing an iPod or talking on a cell phone when the dog is under your care.

I

Resource: Visit Curtis' blog and Web site for more tips and information: www.citizenkanine.net.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

1. Healthy dogs need robust exercise every day. Give them water before, during and after a walk. On a hot day, wet them down beforehand, keep them off hot sidewalks and walk instead on wet grass or wet pavement to protect paws. Rest in shaded areas.

2. If your kids are excited to pet a dog you encounter on a summer hike or walk, ask the owner first.

Life & Style

Fox: Abdul talks closed, Posh, Perry guest judges

PASADENA, California (AP)—Fox nearly slammed the door on Paula Abdul's return to "American Idol"—but not quite. "We made an offer we feel is very fair to Paula" that included a substantial raise, Fox Entertainment Chairman Peter Rice told the Television Critics Association on Thursday.

But Abdul decided against returning for the singing contest's ninth season, he said.

Female pop stars will serve as guest judges for the seven-week audition process set to begin Friday in Denver, with Victoria Beckham and Katy Perry the first to be announced by Fox.

money," Rice said.

Nigel Lythgoe, former "American Idol" producer and executive producer and judge with Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance," said he's invited Abdul to meet him and "talk about what opportunities are out there."

But he said Thursday he's reserving judgment about whether she's a free agent or not.

"I still don't know that she's going to leave 'Idol,'" Lythgoe told another session of the critics' association. "I know this is going on, and the tweeting and the official statements and everything. But until 'Idol' goes on the air, there's always opportunities for renegotiations. Who knows. Who knows what might happen."



In this April 6, 2008 file photo, from left, Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell, Ryan Seacrest, and Randy Jackson are seen backstage at the "Idol Gives Back" fundraising special of "American Idol" in Los Angeles on Sunday April 6, 2008.

Asked after the session what the network would do if Abdul sought to reopen negotiations, Rice replied: "I have no expectation that Paula's going to do that. And in terms of the negotiations themselves, the negotiations have concluded."

When asked what Fox's reaction would be if Abdul agreed to take the network's last offer, Rice replied he didn't expect her to. But he didn't respond when queried again about what the network would do if she agreed to it.

The offer is for a multiyear, eight-figure deal that represents a 30 percent increase for Abdul, according to a person familiar with the talks. The person, who was not authorized to speak publicly, asked not to be identified.

"My understanding is that her only issue is

During his Q&A session with reporters, Rice said the network is saddened by Abdul's decision but looks forward to finding a permanent replacement for her between now and the return of TV's No. 1 show in January.

He called Abdul an important part of the show and acknowledged that there will be "different dynamic" without her.

"There's also something very exciting about that," Rice added.

Original judges Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson are returning for the ninth season, which starts next January, and will be joined for a second year by Kara DioGuardi.

Cowell's contract expires after the season and Fox is talking to him about returning, Rice said.

Abdul says she's receiving 'many wonderful' offers

NEW YORK (AP)—Since announcing her exit from "American Idol," Paula Abdul has been in high demand.

"At this point, there are so many wonderful things that are being offered to me," Abdul said. "And I got to take a deep breath, sleep a little ... and go through everything."

Abdul called The Associated Press Thursday evening during a break in taping her guest appearance on Lifetime's "Drop Dead Diva." Earlier this week, she announced she was leaving "American Idol" after eight seasons as a judge on the popular Fox singing show.

In her telephone interview with the AP, Abdul would not discuss details about her "Idol" exit and would not say if the door to negotiations was still open or what it would take to get her to return to the show.

Fox Entertainment Chairman Peter Rice was asked Thursday what the network would do if Abdul sought to reopen negotiations. Rice replied: "I have no expectation that Paula's going to do that. And in terms of the negotiations themselves, the negotiations have concluded."

When asked following a meeting of the Television Critics Association in Pasadena, Calif., what Fox's reaction would be if Abdul agreed to take the network's last offer, Rice replied he didn't expect her to.

The offer is for a multiyear, eight-figure deal that represents a 30 percent increase for Abdul, according to a person familiar with the talks. The person, who was not authorized to speak publicly, asked not to be identified.

"My understanding is that her only issue is money," Rice said.

"It's something that's very saddening to us," he said about Abdul's departure.

Among possibilities for Abdul's post-"Idol" career is "So You Think You Can Dance." Nigel Lythgoe, former "American Idol" producer and executive producer and judge with the Fox dance competition, has expressed interest in Ab-

"We have a wonderful relationship with Simon. We are in the middle of a new contract negotiation with him and our expectation is he will remain with the show," the executive said.

Abdul's departure comes as "Idol" has joined most other network shows in losing viewers. The Wednesday edition of "American Idol" averaged 25.5 million this past season, still easily the most popular show on TV, compared with 26.8 million in the 2007-08 season; 30 million in both 2006-07 and 2005-06.

dul appearing on the show.

"I am not going to rule that out," she said. "I'm a dancer, a choreographer. Dance is a love of mine. But I have yet to sit down and discuss anything with anyone. It's all happening within the next couple of weeks."

Meanwhile, Abdul raved about working on "Drop Dead Diva." She plays a "real judge" in the Lifetime dramedy, starring Brooke Elliott as a plus-size lawyer. As was her role on "Idol," Abdul's character provides encouragement—this time, for Elliott's alter ego, Jane, rather than aspiring pop stars.

"I'm good at that," Abdul said. "I think I've been good at that since I was a little girl. Just rooting people on and trying to get people to remember to believe in themselves."

On Thursday, she was on set in Peachtree City, Ga. Her episodes air Sept. 13 and Oct. 11.

Will this be a recurring role?

"I hope! You know, this is exactly what life's about—working with people you absolutely love working with," she said.

With Abdul gone, female pop stars will serve as guest judges on "Idol" for the seven-week audition process set to begin Friday in Denver. Victoria Beckham and Katy Perry the first to be announced by Fox.

Original judges Simon Cowell and Randy Jackson are returning for the ninth season, which starts next January, and will be joined for a second year by Kara DioGuardi.

"It's insane right now. ... It's been a lovely experience and the thing that is the most charming and the most heartfelt that makes my heart swell is the outpouring of love that people showed towards me," said Abdul. "And it's overwhelming and it's beautiful."

"And I got to tell you, I'm never going to change who I am at the core. I'm a hard worker, I love working hard and nothing gives me more joy than to be on a project and working with people who are trying to achieve the same goal. And that's where I'm at right now."

Rice took the Abdul issue head-on at the start of the session that included Fox Entertainment President Kevin Reilly.

"Obviously, everybody's aware that Paula will not be returning to 'Idol.' It's something that's very saddening to us," Rice said. She was the only judge whose contract was up this year and Fox "very much wanted her to return."

Negotiations had been going on since he arrived at the network four months ago, Rice said, and for most of last season.



'80s teen flick director John Hughes dies in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Writer-director John Hughes, Hollywood's youth impresario of the 1980s and '90s who captured the teen and preteen market with such favorites as "Home Alone," "The Breakfast Club" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," died Thursday, a spokeswoman said. He was 59.

Hughes died of a heart attack during a morning walk in Manhattan, Michelle Bega said. He was in New York to visit family.

This 1984 file photo shows director John Hughes. Hughes is the man who wrote "National Lampoon's Vacation," "Mr. Mom" and "National Lampoon's European Vacation."

A native of Lansing, Mich., who later moved to suburban Chicago and set much of his work there, Hughes rose from ad writer to comedy writer to silver screen champ with his affectionate and idealized portraits of teens, whether the romantic and sexual insecurity of "Sixteen Candles," or the J.D. Salinger-esque rebellion against conformity in "The Breakfast Club."

Hughes' ensemble comedies helped make stars out of Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall, Ally Sheedy and many other young performers. He also scripted the phenomenally popular "Home Alone," which made little-known Macaulay Culkin a sensation as the 8-year-old accidentally

abandoned by his vacationing family, and wrote or directed such hits as "National Lampoon's Vacation," "Pretty in Pink," "Planes, Trains & Automobiles" and "Uncle Buck."

Other actors who got early breaks from Hughes included John Cusack ("Sixteen Candles"), Judd Nelson ("The Breakfast Club"), Steve Carell ("Curly Sue") and Lili Taylor ("She's Having a Baby").

Devin Ratray, best known for playing Buzz McCallister in the "Home Alone" films, said he remained close to Hughes over the years.

"He changed my life forever," Ratray said. "Nineteen years later, people from all over the world contact me telling me how much 'Home Alone'

meant to them, their families, and their children."

Actor Matthew Broderick worked with Hughes in 1986 when he played the title character in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."

"I am truly shocked and saddened by the news about my old friend John Hughes. He was a wonderful, very talented guy and my heart goes out to his family," Broderick said.

As Hughes advanced into middle age, his commercial touch faded and, in Salinger style, he increasingly withdrew from public life. His last directing credit was in 1991, for "Curly Sue," and he wrote just a handful of scripts over the past decade. He was rarely interviewed or photographed.

Aerosmith postpones concert after Tyler's fall

STURGIS, S.D. (AP)—Aerosmith's Steven Tyler suffered head, neck and shoulder injuries in a tumble from the stage at a South Dakota show, a concert spokesman said Thursday, and the audience thought it was part of his hip-shaking act until he didn't get up.

Tyler, 61, fell several feet while entertaining the crowd by dancing around as the sound crew replaced a fuse that blew during the song "Love in an Elevator," said Mike Sanborn, spokesman for the Buffalo Chip Campground, which hosted the Wednesday night concert. An amateur video showed him spinning around before falling off the stage.

A concertgoer said Tyler's head was bleeding and he was holding his shoulder after the fall, but it wasn't immediately clear how seriously he was hurt. The frontman was airlifted to Rapid City Regional Hospital, Sanborn said, the only major hospital in western South Dakota. A hospital spokeswoman would not confirm whether Tyler was there, and a representative for Aerosmith's publicity firm said the company was gathering information about the accident.

The band's next concert,



The mother of the bride fears big game will trump big day

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Laurie," is being married soon. Her fiance, "Peter," is a likable young man. He is, however, a sports fanatic who stays glued to the television whenever a game is playing. Laurie is aware of his passion, and because she loves Peter, she doesn't have a problem with it.

They have both now stated that if their team is in the playoffs or the World Series, they want TVs brought in for the guests at the wedding reception.

I am opposed to the idea. This will be a formal wedding and reception at an expensive hotel, and we are paying for it. I think Peter and Laurie should regard the day they take their vows as a once-in-a-lifetime event and forgo the game. Guests who feel compelled to check the score may do so in the bar or in their rooms. At the risk of being rude, I don't want to encourage the sports zeal by bringing in television sets.

Am I hopelessly out of touch and old-fashioned? Please help. This may escalate to a confrontation before the wedding.

VOICE OF REASON

DEAR V.O.R.: You aren't out of touch or old-fashioned. You are simply not a sports fan. Although you have generously agreed to pay for the reception, I hope you will relent and provide a set to be placed to one side. Remember, it is Laurie and Peter's wedding, and their guests may feel as they do. Imagine your embarrassment if the bride and groom were also in the bar or in their room instead of enjoying their own reception.

P.S. If your daughter is not a committed sports fan, I hope she's a good sport, because every anniversary will be celebrated at a stadium or in front of a TV.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 22-year-old woman living in the Midwest. I was born here, but have also lived on both coasts. Having lived elsewhere, I have come to realize that the grass really IS greener on the other side.

I was forced to move back here at 17 because of a death in the family. Ever since, my life has been going down the drain. I'm depressed and unhappy. I have nothing here but bad memories.

The only thing keeping me here is my fiance. He loves living close to his friends and family, and he wants to stay. I can't talk him into moving. I am not willing to leave him and he feels the same. But I can't see myself being happy here or his being happy elsewhere. What should I do?

UNSETTLED IN OHIO

DEAR UNSETTLED: If this is where you met the man you love, then surely not all the memories you have of that city are bad ones. Your unhappiness may stem from the fact that you have been spending too much time looking backward rather than living in the present and looking forward to the future.

Some sessions with a psychologist might help you unload the baggage from your past—but if it doesn't, then my advice is that you take a break and revisit the coasts. If you do, you may decide that the grass is really greener in Ohio. And if not, you'll both be better off.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: While it is perfectly acceptable for a man to send flowers to his girlfriend's workplace, what is acceptable for a woman to send to her boyfriend's place of employment?

Please help, Abby!

STUCK IN CHEYENNE

DEAR STUCK: Because your gift is arriving "in public" (so to speak), send nothing so intimate that you wouldn't want his boss to see. Cookies, fudge or a box of candy would, I am sure, be appreciated—not only by your boyfriend but also his co-workers!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Germany's Stasi fooled in 1988 by Jacko double

BERLIN (AP)—It appears that even the dreaded East German Stasi got caught up in Michael Jackson mania in the late 1980s.

According to a document obtained by the AP last week from the archives of the former secret police, the Stasi reported on June 18, 1988 that it monitored Jackson as he visited the Allied Checkpoint Charlie in the center of divided Berlin. It was the day before he was to give a concert in West Berlin and Stasi officials fretted he could cause security concerns in the East.

But it turns out the Communist secret police weren't photographing the pop star at all—they were taking pictures of a double who was part of an elaborate German television stunt to gauge Jackson hysteria in Berlin, according to information from Sat.1 television Thursday.

Sat.1 was going over the Stasi surveillance pictures published by the AP and German newspapers last week, when a cameraman pointed out that he was in the picture, said spokeswoman Diana Schardt.

He recounted the story of the Jackson double stunt to his colleagues, and they were able to pull the original footage and confirm it, she said.

"Back in 1988 a Sat.1 team took a Jacko stand-in on a tour through Berlin to get an idea what it's like to have a superstar in town," Schardt said in an e-mail. "My colleagues told me that the Berlin-

ers really went crazy when they saw him."

The Stasi routinely snooped on dissidents and ordinary East German citizens, and also placed thousands of agents to spy on top Western officials and others.

In its report on Jackson—actually the double—it noted that at 2:52 p.m., three cars pulled up to the official checkpoint building, with "many unknown male and female people."

"Among the people was the USA rock singer Michael Jackson," the report said. "Accompanying him at all times was a female person, about 25 years old, 165 centimeters tall, with a slim build." It gave no other indication of the woman's identity.

It said there were also two film teams with Jackson—noting that one camera said "Sat.1"—who began filming him at 2:55 p.m. At 2:58 p.m., Jackson and most of the others got back in their cars and left, the Stasi said.

"The cross-border traffic was not hindered," the report noted dryly.

Fake Jackson aside, other Stasi documents showed the agency was worried that his concert could cause security problems for East Berlin.

According to one document—an internal Stasi communique from May 4, 1988—the secret police believed that East German youth were "calculating on a confrontation with the police" in conjunction with the Jackson concert.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Jeanine is viewers' pick on Fox dance competition

NEW YORK (AP)—Viewers said Jeanine Mason can dance best as they crowned her the winner of Fox network's "So You Think You Can Dance." Jeanine beat out Evan, Kayla and Brandon on the dance competition's fifth-season finale, which aired live with the results Thursday. More than 21 million votes from viewers had been submitted following the broadcast the night before. Mason, an 18-year-old native of Pinecrest, Fla., wins \$250,000 and the title of "America's Favorite Dancer." The runner-up was 19-year-old Brandon Bryant of Miami. Earlier in the two-hour broadcast, Kayla Radomski, a 19-year-old native of Aurora, Colo., was disclosed

as the least popular among the remaining four. A few minutes later, 21-year-old Evan Kasprzak of West Bloomfield, Mich., got the news that he had placed third. A sixth season of "Dance" begins next month, bridging the gap until midseason, when "American Idol" returns.

Barbra Streisand set for NY's Village Vanguard

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbra Streisand—up-close. The 67-year-old singer returns to her New York club roots next month for a one-performance appearance Sept. 26 at the intimate Village Vanguard, the legendary jazz spot in Greenwich Village. One hundred free tickets will be made available to fans.

Tyler, whose performances often include swaying and grinding on microphone stands adorned with scarves, was dancing on a catwalk Wednesday night that was connected to the main stage.

"He does a lot of dancing on the stage and he does a lot of stuff with his mike stand. He put his stand down and twirled around and stepped backwards off the stage," Sanborn said.

Many in the crowd were surprised and thought it was part of the act, said Jessica Kokesh, a University of South Dakota journalism student who covered the concert for the Rapid City Journal.

Police search home of man accused as Miley Cyrus stalker

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Police on Thursday searched the home of a 53-year-old man jailed on charges he attempted to stalk Miley Cyrus during filming of her new movie on the Georgia coast.

Capt. Steve Morris of the Columbia County Sheriff's Department did not say what investigators were looking for at the Appling home of Mark McLeod, who told police he's secretly engaged to marry the 16-year-old "Hannah Montana" star. The search warrant was sealed by a judge.

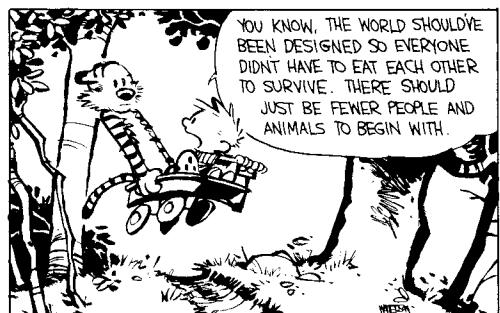
McLeod told a Tybee Island police officer who arrested him in June that he had "thousands of pictures and letters to Miley on his computer," according to a police report.

McLeod was arrested Tuesday on a charge of attempted stalking, a misdemeanor, after security guards for Walt Disney Pictures reported McLeod had returned to the filming location on Tybee Island asking where he could find Cyrus.

Police say McLeod had been warned to stay away from the island, 12 miles east of Savannah, after he was charged June 22 with disorderly conduct and obstruction of a police officer for trying to cross a security perimeter at the movie set. McLeod told police he wanted to see Cyrus, claiming she was his fiancee and sent him secret messages through her TV show.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



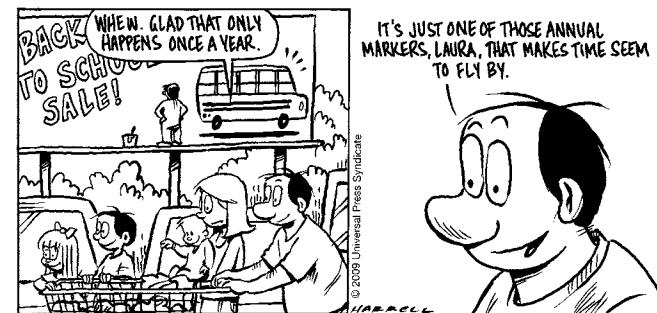
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home

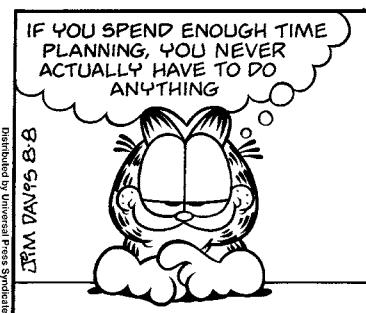


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



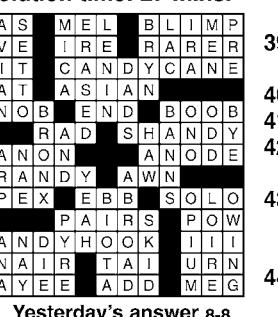
By Glenn McCoy



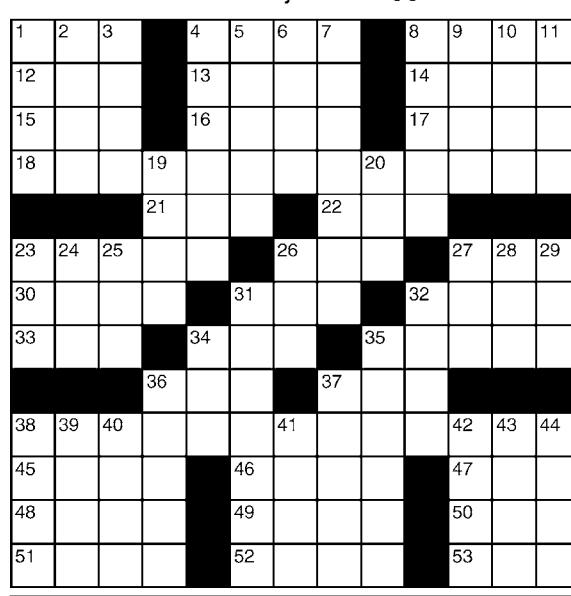
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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egg				ever's	
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				44 Crucial	
				time	



Yesterday's answer 8-8

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roger Federer, 28; Bradley McIntosh, 28; J.C. Chasez, 33; Dustin Hoffman, 72

Happy Birthday: If you think carefully before you make a decision, you will avoid a mistake that will set you back for years to come. Have confidence in yourself and your ideas. This is not the year to be a follower but instead the time to follow your dreams and find your own success. Your numbers are 8, 12, 18, 20, 25, 38, 41



ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have to look at your situation seriously before making a decision that could lead to uncertainty. Not everything has to be perfect for you to move forward with a plan. You can work your way through the ups and downs. **★★★**



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you make the plans and invite friends or family along, you will be the hero. Travel will lead to some interesting plans and ideas that could be incorporated into your professional, personal and financial future. **★★★★**



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Draw the line and refuse to bend to an unfair ultimatum. Your choice of words can make a difference in the outcome. As long as you are prepared to turn your back and walk away, you will have the upper hand. **★★**



CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may need a shave but, once you get going, you'll be glad you did. Learning something new or making new acquaintances will help you see your own situation with clarity. A good attitude will enhance a romantic situation. **★★★★★**



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't give in if you know you are on the right track. Financial or legal matters may be flavored with false hope and uncertainty. Act quickly in order to stabilize your position and move on. **★★★**



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A wait-and-see attitude will help you decipher what's actually taking place. Don't be fooled by an incident that has been manufactured by someone who doesn't have your best interests at heart. Let others react before you take action. **★★★**



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need a break—a little time to rethink your past and consider what and whom you want in your future. A trip will rejuvenate you and help you establish options. Don't forget that if you take control, you call the shots. **★★★**



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't expect anything from anyone and you won't be disappointed. Pay more attention to the people you care about most. A trip will give you a chance to reconsider the lifestyle you have chosen. **★★★★**



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect the unexpected and you will be able to handle whatever comes your way with grace and ease. You won't be able to count on anyone to do what you ask or to take on responsibilities that belong to you. **★★**



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't leave anything undone. If someone owes you, collect and, if you owe someone, pay up. Be direct, face issues head

on and don't lose sight of what you hope to achieve. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Ask questions if you are in doubt. Reserve judgment but dig deep to find out exactly where you stand and what you can do to improve your position. A serious partnership will be at risk if you don't take proper action. **★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may

have to take a back seat for a moment in order to understand someone else's position and give him or her a chance to express and deal with a dilemma that involves you. Making a change in order to accommodate someone will put you in a favorable position. **★★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGYCOPRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATEon and don't lose sight of what you hope to achieve. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Ask questions if you are in doubt. Reserve judgment but dig deep to find out exactly where you stand and what you can do to improve your position. A serious partnership will be at risk if you don't take proper action. **★★★**

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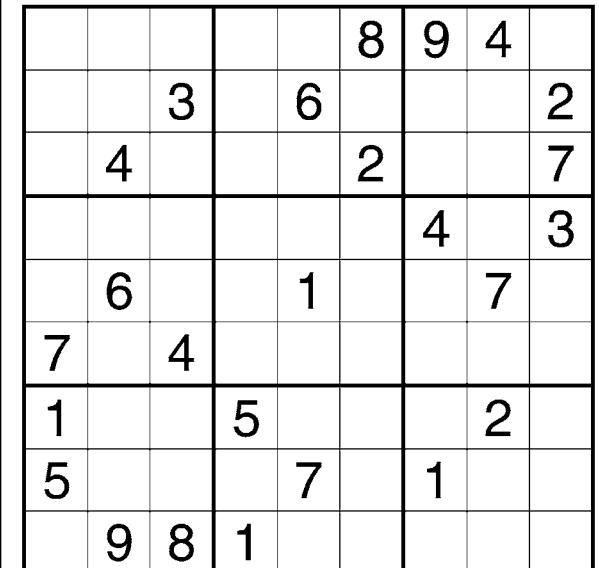
Birthday Baby: You are a believer in justice and fair play. You are a dreamer, a giver and an organizer. You are unique and will always land on your feet.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

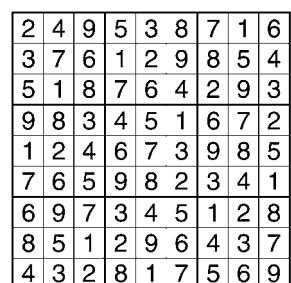
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



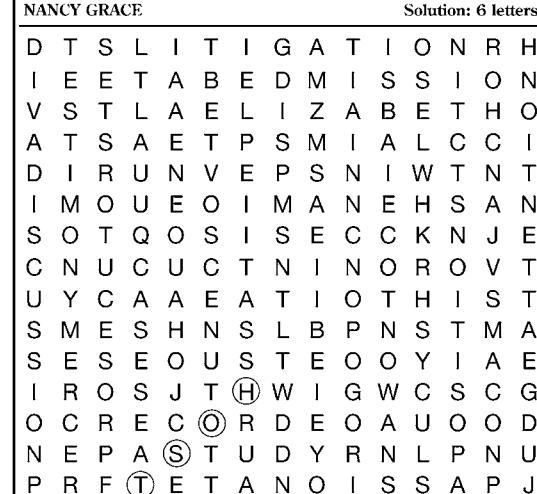
Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NANCY GRACE

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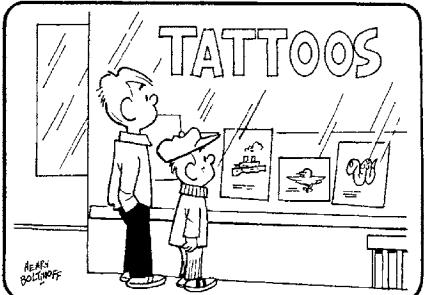
Anchor, Answers, Appeal, Attention, Books, Cases, Claims, Court, Crime, David, Debate, Discussion, Elizabeth, Facts, Host, Hotline, Issues, John, Judge, Justice, Legal, Linch, Litigation, Lucy, Macom, Mercer, Mission, Opinionated, Passionate, Persona, Position, Prosecutor, Questions, Record, Statements, Study, Television, Testimony, Twins
Yesterday's Answer: Wonderword

Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 postage and handling each \$14.20 total each. U.S. funds only for the first volume, \$1.50 plus for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

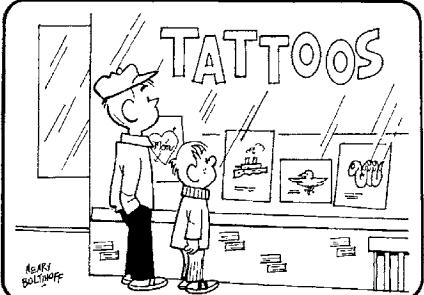
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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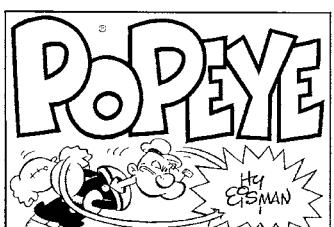
Wishing Well®



HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

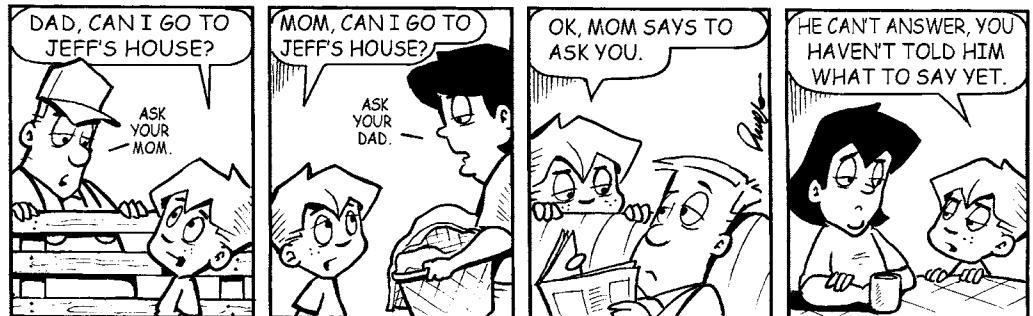
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Differences: 1. "Tattoos" letters are staggered. 2. Different boy is building 5. "Mum" letter is added. 3. "Mum" letter is longer. 4. Boys nose is different. 5. "Mum" letter is longer. 6. Boys nose is different.



www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

Super Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gravy vessel
- 5 Lord of the ring?
- 8 School subject
- 11 Early bird's reward
- 14 Competent
- 19 Land mass
- 21 Epoch
- 22 Field of study
- 23 Prime-time cartoon character
- 25 Speed
- 27 Discern
- 28 Fill to the gills
- 29 Rug material
- 30 W. Hemisphere grp.
- 31 Lend an — (listen)
- 33 "Cheers" actress
- 37 Marvels
- 41 "Star Trek" navigator
- 42 Novelist Ayn
- 43 —Magnon
- 44 Late-night name
- 46 Limber with language
- 48 Proclamation
- 52 "In the Heat of the Night" role
- 56 Grant and Elwes
- 59 Muckraker Nellie Braga
- 60 Actress
- 61 Schoolboy's shot
- 62 "Friends," e.g.
- 63 NASA
- 64 Marley's music
- 67 Blind part
- 69 Common street name
- 70 Egg on Gary Cooper role
- 71 Gary Cooper role
- 75 Pacific archipelago
- 78 Stain
- 79 To be, to Baudelaire
- 80 Hosp. area
- 84 Snow
- 85 "Cheers" actress
- 86 Bach's "Bist du bei —"
- 88 Civil Rights
- 90 "I kid you —"
- 91 John of "The Addams Family"
- 92 37 Masters Tournament winner
- 95 Mournful sound
- 97 Granola fruit
- 99 Challenge
- 100 RN's specialty
- 101 Spanish-American coin
- 104 Shape loosely
- 106 Hung
- 109 TV pioneer Mintz or Whitney
- 112 Offense
- 114 A. Ford
- 115 Cinderella's
- 119 Gymnast Korbett
- 122 Charm
- 124 "The Pink Panther" director
- 128 Prayer finale
- 129 Pub potable
- 130 — cuff
- 131 James of "Rollerball" dwarfs, e.g.
- 132 Moreno or Hayworth
- 133 Take-home
- 134 What a teller needs
- 135 — Day Now"
- 136 Rotund
- 137 Masters Tournament
- 138 Humbug lead-in
- 139 Encountered
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CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

- 3-Liner \$25
- 5-Liner \$35
- 3-Liner with picture \$45
- 5-Liner with picture \$55

COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

- \$25
- \$35
- \$45
- \$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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235- NEWS

Yanks earn first win against Red Sox



N E W
Y O R K
(A P)—
M e l k y

Cabrera and Jorge Posada hit three-run homers as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox for the first time in nine games this season, 13-6 on Thursday.

Johnny Damon and Mark Teixeira also connected for New York, which ended a nine-game skid against Boston dating to last season. It was the Yankees' longest drought in the rivalry since they lost 17 straight from Oct. 3, 1911, to July 1, 1912.

Damon's third-inning shot was his third in three days, Cabrera and Posada went deep in New York's eight-run fourth and Teixeira delivered the final blow with his 28th homer leading off the seventh.

Despite a career-high seven walks, Joba Chamberlain (8-2) lasted five innings to win his fourth consecutive start.

Casey Kotchman hit a two-run homer in his first start for Boston and Dustin Pedroia also went deep.

The American League East-leading Yankees increased their lead over Boston in the AL East to 3 1/2 games with their fourth consecutive win.

Royals 8, Mariners 2

At Kansas City, Missouri, Bruce Chen won in the major leagues for the first time since 2005 and Billy Butler hit a two-run homer in a five-run first inning as Kansas City downed Seattle.

Chen, who had lost his past 13 decisions, earned his first victory since Oct. 2, 2005, while with Baltimore. Chen (1-6) held the Mariners to two runs, despite giving up 10 hits and a walk in 6 2-3 innings, matching his longest outing this season.

Butler's home run was his season-high 13th and he had his team-leading 14th multi-RBI game. The first inning included a two-run double by Mark Teahen and a run-scoring double by Yuniesky Betancourt.

Indians 2, Twins 1

At Cleveland, Trevor Crowe hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning as Cleveland edged Minnesota.

Crowe's slicing line drive into the left-center gap off Nick Blackburn (8-6) scored Travis Hafner from second base as Cleveland won for the ninth time in 13 games. The switch-hitting Crowe has batted .375 with four RBIs in six games since his recall from Triple-A Columbus.

Orlando Cabrera had two hits, extending his hitting streak to a career-high 16 games for Minnesota, which has lost five



New York Yankees' Nick Swisher, left, Melky Cabrera, center, and Robinson Cano make their way to the dugout after Swisher and Cano scored on Cabrera's fourth inning, three-run home run off Boston Red Sox pitcher John Smoltz in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. AP

of six after a four-game winning streak. Cabrera is 10 for 20 since he was acquired from Oakland on Friday.

Tigers 7, Orioles 3

At Detroit, Brandon Inge hit a two-run homer in a four-run second inning, and Rick Porcello didn't give up a hit until the fifth as Detroit beat Baltimore.

Porcello (10-7) has allowed only three runs in his last two starts after allowing 19 runs in his previous four. He went 5 2-3 innings in this one, allowing only four hits.

David Hernandez (3-4) gave up five runs and seven hits, needing 81 pitches to get through three innings. Brian Bass followed and gave up two runs in three innings.

The Tigers hit for the cycle as a team in a span of five at-bats in the second inning to help them take a 4-0 lead that they would never relinquish.

Angels 9, White Sox 5

At Chicago, Vladimir Guerrero hit his first home run in more than a month and Bobby Abreu, Jeff Mathis and Erick Aybar also went deep to lead the Angels past Chicago.

Jayson Nix had a three-run homer for Chicago, which fell two games behind Detroit in the

AL Central. The White Sox had opened their current homestand with five victories in six games against the Angels and New York Yankees, the league's two best teams.

Ervin Santana (4-6) settled down after a rocky start to last six innings for the Angels, who avoided their first three-game losing streak since June.

Rangers 6, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Michael Young hit his 18th homer of the season and Tommy Hunter pitched seven solid innings as Texas beat Oakland to avoid its first four-game sweep since April 2008.

Hank Blalock added his 21st homer, and David Murphy and Andrew Jones each drove in a run for the Rangers, who remained 4 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Angels in the AL West.

Hunter (4-2) gave up three runs—two earned—and three hits with a pair of walks.

Nomar Garciaparra, Rajai Davis and Scott Hairston each hit RBI doubles for the Athletics, who managed a run off C.J. Wilson in the ninth before he finished for his 14th save.

Phillies 3, Rockies 1

At Philadelphia, Cliff Lee pitched

seven impressive innings in his home debut and Paul Bako hit a tiebreaking home run and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Colorado Rockies.

Lee (2-0) allowed one run and six hits, striking out nine in his first start at Citizens Bank Park since the Phillies acquired him from Cleveland last week. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner tossed a complete-game, four-hitter in a 5-1 win at San Francisco last Friday.

Jimmy Rollins had three hits and scored two runs, falling a homer short of the cycle. The NL East-leading Phillies took two of three from Colorado, in the thick of the wild-card chase.

Nationals 12, Marlins 8

At Washington, Ryan Zimmerman finished a double short of the cycle, and Ronnie Belliard's tiebreaking single in the eighth inning helped Washington rally from a six-run deficit to beat Florida.

The Nationals broke an 8-all tie with four runs in the eighth, completing a series sweep and winning their season-best fifth straight game. Jorge Sosa (1-0) got out of an eighth-inning jam and pitched the ninth to earn the win.

Washington also scored six runs in the eighth inning for a 6-4 victory on Tuesday.

Cristian Guzman started the go-ahead rally with a walk to lead off the eighth, and Nyjer Morgan sacrificed him to second before Belliard singled to center off Luis Ayala (1-4). Belliard followed with an RBI single to center for a 9-8 lead, and Washington scored three more times.

Diamondbacks 11, Pirates 6, 12 innings

At Pittsburgh, Alex Romero's two-run double highlighted Arizona's five-run 12th inning as the Diamondbacks beat Pittsburgh to win their fifth straight.

Romero's fourth hit was a double off Steven Jackson (2-2) with the bases loaded and one out in the 12th.

Pitcher Dan Haren followed with a sacrifice fly as a pinch-hitter, and Miguel Montero added an RBI single with Gerardo Parra scoring on a throwing error for the final run.

Mark Reynolds, Stephen Drew and Trent Oeltjen, making his major league debut, homered and Parra had four hits for Arizona, which trailed 6-3 after six innings but won for the seventh time in eight games. Arizona finished with

21 hits.

Delwyn Young, Ronny Cedeno and Lastings Milledge all had two hits and an RBI for the Pirates, who have lost five straight and 10 of 12.

Dodgers 5, Braves 4

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth off Atlanta closer Rafael Soriano—his major league-leading fifth walkoff hit of the season—to give the Dodgers the victory.

Juan Pierre led off the ninth with an infield hit. Rafael Furcal's hit-and-run single sent Pierre to third, and Ethier drove a 2-0 pitch to right field for his 23rd homer. He raised his team-leading RBI total to 72—just five shy of his career best.

Padres 8, Mets 3

At San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in a four-run third inning and drove in three runs, leading the Padres to victory over the Mets.

The victory capped manager Bud Black's night. San Diego announced during the game it extended Black's contract through the 2010 season and held an option for 2011.

"I'm happy for him," Gonzalez said. "He's a quality guy. We all enjoy playing for him."

Magic's Lewis fails drug test, suspended 10 games



NEW YORK (AP)—Orlando Magic forward Rashard Lewis tested positive for an elevated testosterone level and was suspended Thursday for 10 games.

Lewis said in a statement that he took an over-the-counter supplement late last season that included a substance he did not realize was banned by the NBA.

"First and foremost I take full responsibility for the situation and accept the corresponding penalty," Lewis said. "I apologize to Magic fans, my teammates and this organization for not doing the research that should come with good judgment."

He will be suspended without pay for the first 10 regular-season games for which he is eligible and physically able to play. He will be docked about \$1.6 million of his \$18 million salary for the 2009-10 season.

The first game he could play would be Nov. 16 at home against Charlotte. He will miss Orlando's first game against Cleveland, the team the Magic upset in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Orlando Sentinel first reported the positive test Thursday. Citing unidentified league sources, the newspaper reported the supplement contained DHEA, a steroids precursor.

Lewis is the sixth player to test positive for performance-enhancing drugs since the league began testing in 1999.

"I hope every athlete can learn from my mistake that supplements, no matter how innocent they seem, should only be taken after consulting an expert in the field," Lewis said in his statement.

Lewis' agent, Tony Dutt, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The 29-year-old Lewis was an All-Star last season and is one of the NBA's best 3-point shooters at 6-foot-10, allowing him to play on the perimeter and the Magic to create the matchup problems that helped them beat Boston and Cleveland in the postseason.

He was hurt late in the regular season, missing the final three games with right knee tendinitis, then returned to average 19.0 points in the playoffs to help lead the Magic to the NBA finals.



In this June 10, 2009, file photo, Orlando Magic's Rashard Lewis talks with reporters at the NBA basketball finals in Orlando, Fla. Magic forward Lewis tested positive for an elevated testosterone level and was suspended Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, for 10 games. AP

Harrington takes 2-shot lead at Firestone



AKRON, Ohio

(AP)—Padraig Harrington never allowed himself to get down during the worst of times, whether he was missing five straight cuts or finishing toward the bottom of the leaderboard.

He didn't act much differently Thursday after his best round of the year.

Harrington finally saw some results after eight months of tinkering with his swing, making a pivotal par save early that sent him on his way to a 6-under 64 and a two-shot lead in the Bridgestone Invitational.

A boost of confidence? Not really.

"Has no relevance in the overall scheme of things," Harrington said. "It's just one round of golf. That's all it is. It doesn't change the last six months. It won't change the next six months. I wouldn't put too much significance into it, because what if I went out there and shot 76? Would I let it affect tomorrow? I think I would not put much emphasis on the fact that I shot 64. I'm comfortable with it."

What pleased him were the two late birdies—a 25-foot putt on the seventh hole, and one from about the same range just short of the green at No. 8—that made a good round even better.

It also put him atop the leaderboard for the first time all year, two shots clear of Scott Verplank, Tim Clark and Prayad Mooksaeng of Thailand. The group at 67 included Steve Stricker and former Masters champion Zach Johnson.

Verplank played with Harrington, and he was well aware of the stories that documented Harrington's incessant swing changes.

"I know he's struggled a little bit, and he's probably gotten a little too much criticism for working on his game," Verplank said. "But you know what? He's the only one that knows what he needs to do. If today is any indication, then he's doing something right."

Tiger Woods did enough right to open with a 68, the 11th straight time he has broken par in the opening round at Firestone. The world's No. 1 player is going for his seventh victory on this tree-lined course, and he

was only four shots behind.

A week ago in the Buick Open, he was tied for 95th after a 1-under 71 in the first round and wound up winning by three shots.

"We were 1-under par, and I think I was in 15th or 17th spot—a little different than last week at 1-under par," Woods said. "You don't have to go super low here, just kind of plod your way along, make a few birdies here and there. And if you get on a little stretch like I did—make two in a row—all of a sudden you're in eighth place. That's what this golf course allows you to do."

Phil Mickelson opened with an even-par 70, along with defending champion Vijay Singh.

Lefty played for the first time since the U.S. Open and had a double bogey on his second hole. He settled into his game on the back nine, however, picking up three birdies to salvage a decent start.

For all his birdies, it was a par that got Harrington going.

He watched a marginal shot take a wicked bounce to the left of the 13th green, his fourth hole of the round, leaving him a

tough chip with not much green between him and the flag. He hit it to 5 feet and made the putt.

Those were the pars he wasn't saving all year, and it seemed to free him up for the rest of the day. He surged into a share of the lead with a 12-foot birdie on No. 1 and a two-putt birdie on the par-5 second, then picked up bonus birdies from about 25 feet on the seventh and eighth holes, the latter from just short of the green.

Not since his 66-66 weekend at Oakland Hills last year at the PGA has he made the most out of a round, and those last two birdies certainly brightened his mood.

"I walked off the golf course feeling like I got a couple more shots," Harrington said. "And I feel good about the fact that I got one or two more. If I shot 66, I would have said, 'Well, that's about right.' Sixty-four is a little bonus."

In such tame conditions, 40 players were at par or better.

Woods has never opened with worse than a 68 since he first came to Firestone in 1997, and while he wasn't particularly crisp, he came through with birdies on the 12th and 13th

holes to alleviate any stress in his start.

"I hit it good on the front nine in stretches," Woods said. "Starting out, I hit a couple of bad shots there and in the middle part of the round I got it back. A little scratchy coming in, so it was kind of in spurts today."

British Open champion Stewart Cink, playing 18 holes for the first time since his playoff win over Tom Watson at Turnberry, bogeyed two of his last three holes for a 69. His only disappointment? He wasn't introduced as the British Open champion.

Mickelson has been more focused on his family. His wife and mother are battling breast cancer, although they are progressing enough that he could return to golf. Two holes into his round, he missed on a flop shot and a 3-foot putt and took double bogey, and Lefty went out in 38. He turned it around, however, and hopes he's not far off.

"I think when you get in competition, I wasn't trusting myself as much," Mickelson said. "The pins start to get tucked, and you can't miss it in certain spots, and I start kind of steering it a little bit. The last eight holes, I made a few better swings."

Browns' Stallworth: I am truly sorry



CLEVELAND (AP)—Suspended Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth feels he has done "irreparable harm" to the family of the man he killed while driving drunk and said he is ready to accept whatever ruling NFL commissioner Roger Goodell makes on his future.

Stallworth, suspended indefinitely by the league for killing Mario Reyes while driving drunk in Miami, met with Goodell in New York on Wednesday about a possible reinstatement.

Stallworth was recently released from jail after serving 24 days for the DUI conviction.

In a public statement released Thursday, Stallworth apologized for his actions and vowed to conduct himself "in a manner that more accurately reflects who I am and meets the high standard expected of all NFL players."

"I recognize that there is a difference between the legal standard in my criminal case and the standard to which NFL players are held," Stallworth said. "It is clear that I exercised poor judgment and caused irreparable harm to Mario Reyes, his family, the NFL, its owners, coaches, employees and to my fellow players."

Stallworth thanked Goodell for the opportunity to express his remorse and said he will accept whatever punishment Goodell hands down.

"Whatever he ultimately decides is the appropriate discipline, I will accept knowing that I have profoundly affected the NFL and its relationship with the fans of our game," Stallworth said. "I jeopardized the honor and privilege that I have been given to be an NFL player and to play for our fans. I am truly sorry."

The league has given no indication when Goodell will rule on Stallworth, who struck and killed Reyes on March 14, just a few hours after drinking at a Miami Beach club.

Stallworth had a blood-alcohol level of .126, above Florida's .08 legal limit.

The Browns have deferred all questions about Stallworth to the league. Coach Eric Mangini said Wednesday the team will address Stallworth's situation after Goodell makes his decision.

Stallworth reached an undisclosed financial settlement with Reyes' family, which factored into his relatively light sentence. In addition to his time in jail, his sentence included two years of house arrest, probation and other restrictions.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	66	42	.611	—
Boston	62	45	.579	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	60	48	.556	6
Toronto	51	56	.477	14 1/2
Baltimore	45	63	.417	21

Central Division

Detroit	57	50	.533	—
Chicago	56	53	.514	2
Minnesota	53	55	.491	4 1/2
Cleveland	46	62	.426	11 1/2
Kansas City	42	66	.389	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	64	42	.604	—
Texas	60	47	.561	4 1/2
Seattle	56	52	.519	9
Oakland	47	61	.435	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	61	45	.575	—
Florida	55	53	.509	7
Atlanta	55	54	.505	7 1/2
New York	51	57	.472	11
Washington	37	72	.339	25 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	57	49	.538	—
St. Louis	59	51	.536	—
Milwaukee	54	54	.500	4
Houston	53	55	.491	5
Cincinnati	46	61	.430	11 1/2
Pittsburgh	45	63	.417	13

West Division

Los Angeles	67	42	.615	—
San Francisco	60	48	.556	6 1/2
Colorado	59	49	.546	7 1/2
Arizona	50	59	.459	17
San Diego	45	65	.409	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Washington 12, Florida 8
Philadelphia 3, Colorado 1
Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 6, 12 innnings
San Diego 8, N.Y. Mets 3
L.A. Dodgers 5, Atlanta 4
Cleveland 2, Minnesota 1
Detroit 7, Baltimore 3
L.A. Angels 9, Chicago White Sox 5
Texas 6, Oakland 4
N.Y. Yankees 13, Boston 6
Kansas City 8, Seattle 2

BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL SCORES

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Scores Thursday from the \$8.5 million Bridgestone Invitational played at the par-70(35-35), 7,400-yard Firestone Country Club (South Course)

FIRST ROUND

Padraig Harrington	31-33-64
Prayad Marksaeng	35-31-66
Tim Clark	32-34-66
Scott Verplank	33-33-66
Steve Stricker	33-34-67

Ian Poulter	33-34-67
Zach Johnson	34-33-67
Hunter Mahan	32-36-68
Robert Allenby	35-33-68
Miguel A. Jimenez	32-36-68
Danny Lee	34-34-68
Tiger Woods	35-33-68
Sergio Garcia	34-34-68
David Toms	34-35-69
Lucas Glover	34-35-69
Henrik Stenson	34-35-69
Sean O'Hair	34-35-69
Boo Weekley	35-34-69
Kenny Perry	34-35-69
Stewart Cink	33-36-69
Woody Austin	35-34-69
Nick Dougherty	34-35-69
Lee Westwood	32-37-69
Geoff Ogilvy	36-33-69
Oliver Wilson	35-34-69
Soren Hansen	33-36-69
Jeev M. Singh	34-36-70
Angel Cabrera	33-37-70
Trevor Immelman	35-35-70
Justin Leonard	37-33-70
Ross Fisher	35-35-70
Luke Donald	36-34-70
Vijay Singh	35-35-70
Phil Mickelson	32-38-70
Camilo Villegas	34-36-70
Gonzalo F-Castano	33-37-70
Dustin Johnson	36-34-70
Pat Perez	33-37-70
J.B. Holmes	34-36-70
Carl Pettersson	34-37-71
Thongchai Jaidee	33-38-71
Mike Weir	36-35-71
Rory Sabbatini	36-35-71
Chad Campbell	36-35-71
Jerry Kelly	35-36-71
Charles Howell III	35-36-71
Ernie Els	33-38-71
Anthony Kang	37-34-71
Darren Clarke	35-36-71
Cameron Beckman	36-35-71
Retief Goosen	36-35-71
Richard Sterne	37-35-72
Martin Kaymer	36-36-72
Davis Love III	38-34-72
Nick O'Hern	37-35-72
Soren Kjeldsen	35-37-72
Y.E. Yang	34-38-72
Anthony Kim	36-36-72
Alvaro Quiros	36-36-72
Jim Furyk	35-38-73
Graeme McDowell	35-38-73
Matthew Goggins	37-36-73
Stuart Appleby	36-37-73
Gregory Havret	38-35-73
Anders Hansen	38-35-73
Nathan Green	38-36-74
K.J. Choi	36-38-74
Nick Watney	36-38-74
Chih-Bing Lam	38-36-74
Shingo Katayama	36-38-74
Yuji Igarashi	38-36-74
Brian Gay	37-38-75
Justin Rose	37-38-75
Rory McIlroy	37-38-75
Christian Cevaer	35-40-75
Marc Turnesa	39-37-76
Ben Curtis	37-40-77
Shane Lowry	40-38-78
Adam Scott	39-39-78
Paul Casey	WD

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in Day 2, Wonenberg now has earned five gold medals in the tournament. In Day 1, Wonenberg claimed two gold medals after winning the 400m hurdles and the 4x400m relay run.

Kabiriel claimed his second gold medal in the meet after ruling the 3,000m steeple chase in Day 2. The "Roadrunner Bunny" logged 11:53.77 against the 12:10.40 of silver medalist and teammate Matt Mancao.

In the opening day of the meet, Kabiriel topped the men's 400m hurdles and was runner-up to Guam's Toby Castro in the 5,000m race.

Dexter Dillay joined his first individual race and took a silver medal in the 800m run after recording 2:17.16. The Marshall Island's Thomas Lajwi won the gold medal with a time of 2:26.88, giving his island its first medal in the tournament.

Clayton Kenty handed the CNMI its lone bronze medal in Day 2 after finishing third in the 110m hurdles with a time of 20.76 seconds. Palau's Leon Menglo claimed the gold,

HANMI Cup meeting tomorrow

Coordinator Lito Espino is calling for an organization meeting for the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League tomorrow and is requesting all interested teams to attend.

The *tete-a-tete* will be held at 10am on Aug. 9 at the Red Box of the Saipan World Resort. Agenda for the meeting are team rosters, entrance free, uniforms, league ground rules, and format.

Espino said seven teams have already signified their interest in joining the competition, namely defending champion Fiesta Re-

sort and Spa-Saipan Grand Hotel, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Saipan World Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Pacific Islands Club, and Century Hotel- Shirley's Coffee Shop.

Espino earlier said that the 3rd edition of the HANMI Cup will open on Aug. 22 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The opening will involve a parade of teams and competitions for Best in Uniform and Best Muse.

Like the previous two edi-

tions of the HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, the 2008-2009 season will be organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, where Espino is president.

Games will be held Saturday and Sunday with the first game starting at 6:30pm and second game at 8pm. Entrance fee is \$600 and payable to NMBA.

For more information about the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League,

work with a crew. As one of the referees in Bangkok, I learned much passion down the stretch to beat Canada," White said.

Argentina defeated Canada, 58-51, to salvage the bronze medal, while the U.S. topped Spain in the gold medal game, 87-71.

White said he is delighted to officiate a medal game in Bangkok and experience how it was like to be part of a top-level competition as a referee.

Referees selection for medal

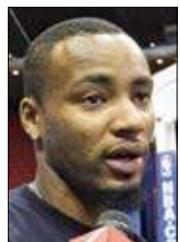
games was done by Lubomir Kotleba, FIBA's sports director with the assistance from FIBA supervisors," White said.

"Every referee is a FIBA International referee, and some of the best in their respective countries. Each knows how to control and manage the game and

game of the second day of the much-delayed qualifier last Wednesday and leaned on a nine-run bottom of the sixth to thwart Sokau. The second leg of the KOD qualifier was originally set for last weekend, but started only last Monday and suspended its games last Tuesday and Thursday.

Natibu, which won over Pac Chain in the opening day, 13-6, nailed its second win after capitalizing on Sokau's errors in the sixth inning. Natibu scored seven of its nine runs at the bottom of the sixth on Sokau's miscues.

Before its erratic defense at the bottom of the sixth, Sokau led Natibu, 5-4.



Magic's Lewis fails drug test, suspended 10 games

Orlando Magic forward Rashard Lewis tested positive for an elevated testosterone level and was suspended Thursday for 10 games.

26

Saipan Tribune

Sports

28 SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2009

Yanks earn first win against Red Sox

Melky Cabrera and Jorge Posada hit three-run homers as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox for the first time in nine games this season, 13-6 on Thursday.

25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Wonenberg, Kabiriel strike gold, again

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Youth athlete Jacque Wonenberg and long distance runner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel gave the CNMI four more gold medals in the penultimate day of competition in the Oceania Regional Championships 2009/Micronesian Athletics Championship last Thursday.

Wonenberg collected three more gold medals, while Kabiriel added one bringing the CNMI Team's total to eight gold, five silver, and four bronze with one day of competition left in the regional meet. The last 18 events in the tournament being held at

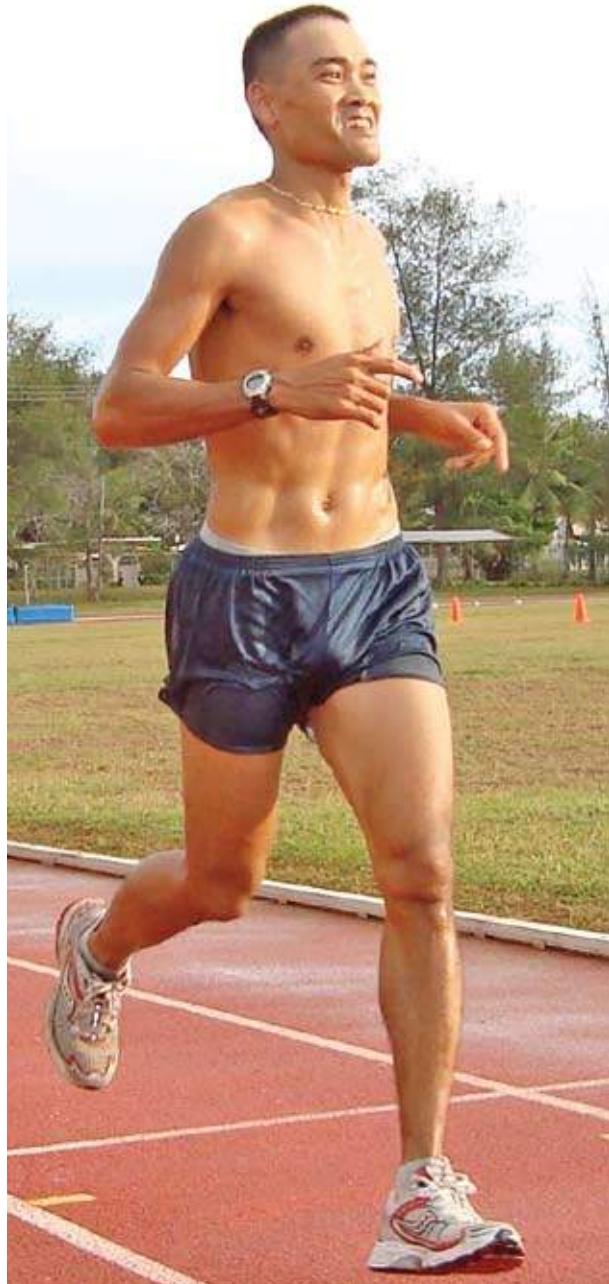
OCEANIA ATHLETICS

the Griffith University, in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, will be contested today.

The 17-year-old Wonenberg gave the CNMI its first gold in Day 2 via her 18.31 seconds time in the women's 100m hurdles. She defeated rival, Andria Cruz, as the Guam athlete completed the race in 19.28 seconds.

Wonenberg had another gold-winning performance in the women's triple jump, as she recorded 9.59m, topping the 9.10m of Kiribati's Kaitinamo Mwemweata.

The Marianas High School student competed in her fourth event in Day 2 and helped the CNMI Team win the 4x100m relay race against Nauru. Wonenberg, along with Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, and Lia Rangamar submitted 53 sec-



MARK RABAGO/ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Left, Jack Kabiriel and Jacque Wonenberg, seen here training at the Oleai Sports Complex, gave the CNMI four more medals in Day 2 of the Oceania Regional Championships 2009/Micronesian Athletics Championship last Thursday in Queensland, Australia.

onds in the women's 4x100m relay run. Wonenberg's third

event was the discus throw, but she finished only fifth.

With her three gold medals

See WONENBERG on Page 27

Tsunami Saipan swimmers are July's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kai Staal's record-shattering performance in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy last month was more than enough to earn him the NMASA Male Athlete of the Month for July award.

The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan competed in four individual races and made records in all occasions. On top of his record-breaking swim in individual swims, Staal also helped the CNMI Team set

marks in three relay races.

His 25.06 seconds in the 50m freestyle is a new CNMI National and age group marks (15 to 16 age group). Staal's three other age group and personal best records are

31.90 seconds in the 50m breaststroke, 28.04 seconds in the 50 butterfly, and 29.75 seconds in the 50m backstroke.

In relays, the 15-year-old Staal teamed up with Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, and Kensuke Kimura in posting three marks. The CNMI quar-

See TSUNAMI on Page 27



ATHLETES of the MONTH

Staal



Kimura

Gabriel White shares World Championships experience

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FIBA International referee Gabriel White completed his assignment in the 2009 FIBA Women's U-19 World Championships in Bangkok, Thailand and is now in Portugal for another youth tournament.

White's last match in the World Championships was the bronze medal game between Canada and Argentina last Sunday. Last Tuesday, he arrived in Sao Joao



27

de Madeira, a municipality in northwestern Portugal, which is one of the hosts of the U16 European Championships Men's Division B. Oliveira de Azemeis and Feira are the two other host municipalities of the competition, which features 18 countries from Europe.

White, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, shared his World Championships experience in Bangkok and is looking for an equally exciting and challenging as-

See GABRIEL on Page 27



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CNMI and FIBA International referee Gabriel White officiates the bronze medal game between Canada and Argentina in the 2009 FIBA Women's U-19 World Championships in Bangkok, Thailand last week.

Natibu, Advance gain semis entry in KOD

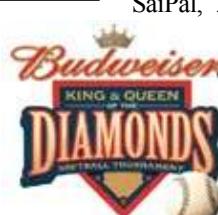
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Natibu and Advance X-Terminators remained unbeaten in the second qualifier for the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament and moved a win away from advancing to the finals.

The X-Terminators and Natibu recorded separate wins over SaiPal, 21-7, and Sokau 670,

13-3, respectively to arrange their semi-finals showdown. Natibu and Advance were scheduled to duel for the first finals seat last night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Natibu played in the first



See NATIBU on Page 27